THE CHURCH BELLS

OF

BEDFORDSHIRE.

THE CHURCH BELLS

OF

BEDFORDSHIRE:

THEIR FOUNDERS, INSCRIPTIONS, TRADITIONS, AND PECULIAR USES;

WITH A BRIEF

HISTORY OF CHURCH BELLS IN THAT COUNTY, CHIEFLY FROM ORIGINAL AND CONTEMPORANEOUS RECORDS.

BY THOMAS NORTH, F.S.A.,

HONORARY MEMBER AND HONORARY SECRETARY OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY, HONORARY MEMBER OF THE DERBYSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY, ETC.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS.

LONDON:

ELLIOT STOCK, 62, PATERNOSTER ROW.

1883.

CC
212
.B4 N81

AEG 7.17.53

To

THE RIGHT

REVEREND JAMES RUSSELL WOODFORD, D.D.,

LORD BISHOP OF ELY,

This Volume, descriptive of the Church Bells in a portion of his Diocese,

is, by his Lordship's special permission,

most respectfully dedicated

by his obedient and faithful servant,

THE AUTHOR.

731892

SUBSCRIBERS.

ADDINGTON, H., Esq., Henlow Grange, Biggleswade.

Atkinson, Rev. Edward, D.D., Clare College, Cambridge.

BAKER, Charles, Esq., Friar Lane, Leicester.

Baker, Rev. W. S., Eversholt Rectory, Woburn.

Bath and Wells, the Lord Bishop of, The Palace, Wells.

Beedham, B. H., Esq., Ashfield House, Kimbolton.

Bennett, E. G., Esq., 10, Woodland Terrace, Plymouth.

Berry, Rev. T. M., Blunham Rectory, Sandy.

Bethell, W., Esq., Rise Park, Hull.

Birch, Rev. C. G. R., Brancaster Rectory, Norfolk.

Blair, R., Esq., South Shields.

Blaydes, F. A., Esq., Shenstone Lodge, Ashburnham Road, Bedford.

Blundell, J. H., Esq., 157, Cheapside.

Boardman, Mr., Bookseller, Bishop's Stortford.

Bonser, Rev. J. A., Shillington Vicarage, Hitchin.

Boyd, Miss Julia, Moor House, Leamside, Durham.

Briscoe, J. P., Esq., F.R.H.S., Free Library, Nottingham.

Brooke, Thos., Esq., F.S.A., Armytage Bridge, Huddersfield. *Large Paper.*

Brushfield, T. N., Esq., The Cliff, Budleigh, Salterton.

Bull, T., Esq., 49, High Street, Bedford.

CARPENTER, Dr. Alfred, Croydon.

Clarke, Mr. Saml., 5, Gallowtree Gate, Leicester.

Cokayne, G. E., Esq., M.A., F.S.A., College of Arms, E.C.

Cooke, Rev. Canon, F.S.A., 6, Clifton Place, Sussex Square, W.

Cooper, Thomas, Esq., Mossley House, Congleton.

Cox, Cornelius, Esq., 58, Fellow's Road, Hampstead, N.W.

Cunninghame, G. G., Esq., 45, Manor Place, Edinburgh.

DAUBNEY, Rev. W. H., Harlington Vicarage, Dunstable.

Davidson, Hugh, Esq., Braedale, Lanark.

Dobell, W., Esq., West Malling, Kent.

Downing, Wm., Esq., 74, New Street, Birmingham.

Duke, Rev. R., F.S.A., Birlingham Rectory, Pershore.
Dymond, E. G., Esq., Aspley Guise, Woburn.

Edmond, G., Esq., Spring Vale, Niton, Isle of Wight, *Large Paper.*
Edmonds, J. R., Esq., Charnwood House, Sileby, Loughborough.
Edmondes, Rev. T., The Vicarage, Cowbridge.
Elvin, C. N., Esq., M.A., Eckling Grange, East Dereham.
Evans, John, Esq., D.C.L., LL.D., F.R.S., F.S.A., 65, Old Bailey, E.C.
Eyre, Rev. W. H., Stoneyhurst, Blackburn.

Fisher, E., Esq., Abbotsbury, Newton Abbot.
Fisher, S. T., Esq., 4, Park Prospect, Little Queen Street, S.W.
Foster, R., Esq., Llanwithan, Lostwithiel.
Foster, J. N., Esq., Sandy, Bedfordshire.
Fowler, Rev. J. T., F.S.A., Bishop Hatfield's Hall, Durham.
Fox, Dr. C. H., The Beeches, Brislington, Bristol.

Gough, H., Esq., Sandcroft, Redhill.
Gray, H., Esq., 25, Cathedral Yard, Manchester. *Large Paper.*
Grove, Dr. W. R., St. Ives, Hunts.

Haddock, Rev. Canon, Bedford.
Harris, H. E. Hollis, Esq., 78, Regent Street, W.
Harting, J. V., Esq., F.S.A., 24, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.
Haslam, Rev. C. E., Toddington Rectory, Dunstable.
Hayward, T., Esq., Crescent Foundry, Cripplegate. *Large Paper.*
Hebbes, C., Esq., Wootton, Bedford.
Hill, James Woodward, Esq., Bedford.
Hockliffe, F., Esq., Bedford. 12, *Large Paper.*
Do., Do. (12 *copies*).
Holmes, G., Esq., Harleston, Norfolk.
Honeyman, J., Esq., 140, Bath Street, Glasgow.
Hope, R. C., Esq., Albion Crescent Villa, Scarborough.
Horley, W., Esq., Toddington, Dunstable.
Howard, F., Esq., Bedford.
Howlett, Rev. J. H., Meppershall Rectory, Beds.

James, Francis, Esq., F.S.A., Edgworth Manor, Cirencester.
Jendwine, Rev. W., Aspley Guise, Woburn.
Jepson, G. G., Esq., Springmount, Leeds.
Jerram, Mr. J. R., The Close, Salisbury.

Kirkland, Walter, Esq., 23, Upperton Gardens, Eastbourne.

Layton, C. Temple, Esq., 17, Mincing Lane, E.C.
Layton, Thomas, Esq., F.S.A., Kew Bridge, Middlesex. *Large Paper.*
Lee-Warner, Rev. T. H., Highmoor, Henley-on-Thames.
Luck, Richard, Esq., Llanfairfechan.
Lynam, C., Esq., Stoke-on-Trent.

Macleur, W., Esq., 31, Camperdown Place, Great Yarmouth.
Mears, J., Esq., 47, Burgate, Canterbury. *Large Paper.*
Mercer, Wm. J., Esq., 12, Marine Terrace, Margate.
Miles, Rev. H. H., Clifton Rectory, Biggleswade.
Murdoch, Rev. A., All Saints' Parsonage, Edinburgh.

Nield, Wm., Esq., 2, Broad Street, Bristol.
Nixon, E., Esq., Saville House, Methley, Leeds.
Norton, Mr. W., Cheltenham.

Orlebar, Rev. A., Willington Vicarage, Bedford.
Ormerod, H., jun., Esq., Boothroyd, Brighouse.
Owen, Rev. T. M. N., Rhodes Vicarage, Middleton.

Parlane, J., Esq., Appleby Lodge, Rusholme, Manchester.
Pieters, Rev. J. W., S. John's College, Cambridge.
Pike, G. H., Esq., Green Dragon Lane, Winchmore Hill.
Pulleine, Mrs., Clifton Castle, Bedale.

Ramsey, R., Esq., 27, Greendyke Street, Glasgow. *Large Paper.*
Raven, Rev. J. J., D.D., School House, Great Yarmouth.
Raynes, J. G., Esq., 14, Great James Street, W.C.
Reynolds, A., Esq., Merchant Taylors' Schools, E.C.
Roots, G., Esq., 2, Ashley Place, Victoria Street, S.W.
Roper, Rev. T. H., Piddlehinton Rectory, Dorchester.
Roundell, C. S., Esq., M.P., 16, Curzon Street, Mayfair, W.
Rowe, R. Reynolds, Esq., F.S.A., Park House, Cambridge.
Royce, Rev. D., Nether Swell Vicarage, Stow-on-Wold.

St. Aubyn, J. P., Esq., 118, Cambridge Street, Eccleston Square, S.W.
Sidebotham, J., Esq., F.S.A., Bowdon, Cheshire.
Smith, Rev. B. C., Hulcote Rectory, Woburn.
Snowdon, J. M., Esq., Old Bank Chambers, Leeds.
Spiers, E. G., Esq., 21, Bernard Street, Russell Square, W.C.
Stahlschmidt, C. T., Esq., Fronsham House, Balham, S.W. *Large Paper.*
Stainer, Dr. John, 5, Amen Corner, E.C.
Stanton, Rev. A. H., St. Albans, Holborn, W.C.
Stretton, Miss, Danes Hill House, Leicester. *Large Paper.*
Sutton, Rev. Canon, West Tofts Rectory, Muntford.
Swithinbank, G. E., Esq., LL.D., Upper Norwood, Surrey.

Taylor, Messrs. John & Co., Loughborough.
Taylor, Rev. R. F., Gomersal Vicarage, Leeds.
Thorpe, G., Esq., 65, Stoke Newington Road, N.

Timæus, Mr. C. F., High Street, Bedford (3 *copies*).
Tinkler, Rev. John, Arkengarth-dale Vicarage, Richmond.
Trethewy, H., Esq., Silsoe, Ampthill. *Large Paper.*
Tyssen, A. D., Esq., D.C.L., 40, Chancery Lane, W.C.

Ussher, Rev. R., Grove House, Ventnor, Isle of Wight.

Vialls, G., Esq., 24, Doughty Street, W.

Walhouse, M. J., Esq., 9, Randolph Crescent, W.
Walton, Rev. T. J., Ickleford Rectory, Hitchin.
Warmoll, Rev. Provost, Bedford.
Warner, Messrs. J. & Sons, Crescent Foundry, Cripplegate, E.C.
Waterton, Edmund, Esq., F.S.A., Deeping Waterton Hall, Market Deeping.
Watkins, Rev. H. G., The Vicarage, Potter's Bar, N.
Webster, Mrs., Raven Holt, Scalford, Melton Mowbray.
White, G. H., Esq., Glenthorne, St. Mary's Church, Torquay.
Whitbread, Saml., Esq., Southill, Biggleswade. *Large Paper.*
Whitehead, Rev. H., Brampton Vicarage, Carlisle.
Williams, J. H., Esq., Leicester.
Wood, R. H., Esq., F.S.A., Penrhos House, Rugby.
Worcester, the Very Rev. the Dean of, Worcester.

Corporation Library, Guildhall, E.C.
Society of Antiquaries of London, Burlington House, W.
Cathedral Library, Lincoln.

The foregoing list of subscribers has been made up to the date of going to press. Any names arriving after this date have been necessarily omitted.

PREFACE.

On the completion of my endeavour to place upon record a careful account of the Bells at present hanging in the churches of Bedfordshire, I have to acknowledge, with pleasure and with gratitude, much kind help received from many friends and from many courteous correspondents.

To Mr. Edwin Ransom, F.R.G.S., I am specially indebted for (without any solicitation on my part) placing in my hands a collection of copies of the inscriptions on, and the measurements of, many bells in the county, carefully made under his direction some years ago.

To Mr. D. G. Cary-Elwes, F.S.A., and to Mr. Charles Herbert, I am also very much indebted for spending much time, and making long journeys, in order to procure for me rubbings from many of the more ancient bells in the county.

And further, I beg to acknowledge the ready help I received from the other gentlemen, whose names are in the following list, towards the completion of this work by sending me rubbings, etc., of the inscriptions on, and other particulars relating to, the bells in the different parishes appended to their names.

The Rev. W. G. Dimock Fletcher very kindly gave me some assistance in the Bodleian Library, Oxford. The Rev.

J. T. Fowler, F.S.A., Vice-Principal of Bishop Hatfield's Hall, Durham, allowed me, as upon former occasions, to appeal to him for a reading of more than one difficult inscription; and Mr. Vincent's professional services were very useful to me in the Public Record Office.

To each and all I beg to offer my hearty thanks.

Baker, Rev. R.	Colmworth, Eaton Socon, Poddington, Staughton Parva, Wymington.
Blaydes, F. A., Esq.	Studham, Whipsnade.
Bolingbroke, Rev. F.	Melchbourne.
Bonser, Rev. J. A.	Shillington.
Bosanquet, Rev. E.	Clophill.
Elwes, D. G. Cary-, Esq., F.S.A. ...	Bedford (S. Peter, S. Mary, and S. Cuthbert), Blunham, Bromham, Cardington, Carlton, Chellington, Clapham, Cople, Elstow, Goldington, Harrold, Hawnes, Kempston, Muggerhanger, Northill, Oakley, Odell, Pavenham, Potton, Sandy, Sharnbrook, Southill, Stevington, Thurleigh, Warden (Old), Wilden, Wilshampstead, Willington, Wootton.
Foster, Rev. A. J.	Fandish.
Herbert, Mr. Charles...	Aspley Guise, Battlesden House, Billington, Caddington, Chalgrave, Cranfield, Eaton Bray, Egginton, Flitwick, Harlington, Heath and Reach, Hockliffe, Houghton Regis, Hulcote, Husborne Crawley, Lidlington, Marston Moretaine, Millbrooke, Milton Bryant, Salford, Stanbridge, Tilsworth, Tingrith, Tottenhoe, Woburn.
Lee, Rev. W. G.	Shelton.

Miles, Rev. H. H.	... Clifton.
Moxon, Rev. G. H.	... Streatley, Sundon.
Osborn, Rev. G. M.	... Campton, Shefford.
Ransom, E., Esq.	... Ampthill, Barford Great, Barford Little, Barton-le-Clay, Battlesden, Bedford (S. Paul, S. John Baptist, and Holy Trinity), Biddenham, Biggleswade, Bletsoe, Bolnhurst, Cardington, Clapham, Dean, Dunstable, Eversholt, Felmersham, Flitton, Gravenhurst (Upper and Lower), Hatley Cockayne, Higham Gobion, Houghton Conquest, Keysoe, Knotting, Leighton Buzzard, Luton, Meppershall, Milton Ernest, Pertenhall, Polluxhill, Pottesgrove, Ravensden, Renfold, Ridgmount, Riseley, Roxton, Silsoe, Souldrop, Stagsden, Steppingley, Stondon, Sutton, Tempsford, Tilbrook, Toddington, Turvey, Westoning, Wrestlingworth, Yielden.
Raven, Rev. J. J., D.D. ...	... Holwell, Maulden.
Raynes, J. G., Esq.	... Dunton, Edworth, Eyeworth, Henlow, Langford, Stotfold.
Warner & Sons, Messrs. ...	... Arlesey.

Llanfairfechan, North Wales. T. N.

October, 1883.

CONTENTS.

PAGE

Church Bells (with special reference to those in Bedfordshire) . . 1

The Church Bells of Bedfordshire 33

The Bedfordshire Bellfounders (*Illustrated*) 37

Other Founders of Bedfordshire Bells (*Illustrated*) . . . 43

Peculiar Uses of the Bedfordshire Bells 85

Latin Inscriptions on Bedfordshire Bells (*with Translations*) . . 117

A Table of Diameters of Bells, with the approximate Weights . . 120

The Inscriptions on the Church Bells of Bedfordshire, with the Diameter at the mouth of each Bell, from which its approximate Weight may be ascertained. To which are added extracts, where procurable, from the Commissioners' Returns *temp.* Edward VI., and from Parochial and other Records, together with Local Traditions, Notices of Donors, etc., etc. 121

Index 213

CHURCH BELLS.

ALTHOUGH we know that the Christian Church in the first years of its infancy met in a large upper room, the festival apartment, the best room in the house, and one, no doubt, decently, if not handsomely, furnished; and that afterwards, in the early centuries of its existence, its members assembled for prayer and praise in handsome edifices, or in caves and catacombs, according to the peace it occasionally enjoyed, or the persecution it not unfrequently suffered, still we know little of the means—public or private, according to these circumstances—adopted for calling the faithful together. Even after its vicissitudes of outward peace and unrest were over, and it enjoyed, under Constantine, encouragement and protection, when some of the ancient basilicas of Rome were placed by the Emperor in the hands of the Church, and magnificent temples were erected by him, in other places of his wide dominions, for the worship of God, the mode of summoning the worshippers is still uncertain, and our knowledge of it obscure. Bingham's opinion is probably correct, that for the first three hundred years the primitive Christians did not meet in their assemblies by the notice of any public signal. The hours of prayer being well known,

and a desire, perhaps, existing not to unduly call the attention of their heathen or Jewish neighbours to the celebration of their more solemn rites, might induce them to assemble, even during periods of peace and quiet, without the use of any public summons. In the times of persecution a secret message passed from one to another would be the safest and only prudent method of calling the Christians together. Later, when the Church had little to fear from outward persecution, the Christians in Egypt and in Palestine appear to have used trumpets, like the Jews of old, and in other parts they used an instrument of wood, called a *signum*. In the monasteries the monks or nuns were summoned to church by a blow from a mallet at the door of each cell, or by one going round crying "Halleluja."*

It is not until the fifth century that we find bells used in the Christian Church in the way with which we are so familiar. Small bells, or "metallic rattles," had been long known and used in various ways by the nations of antiquity. The Jews knew them well; the Greeks and the Romans were familiar with them; the Persians wore them on their royal robes; they have been found in the ruins of Nineveh; the Hindoos used them in their temples, and the Chinese have probably for ages known them as common things; but even tradition does not claim the *Campana*, or large bell, as an ornament of the church, used as a public signal, prior to the fifth century.

S. Jerome, who is thought to be the first Christian writer

* See Bingham's *Christ. Antiq.* Book viii. c. vii. s. xv., and see also Bellett's translation of Pelliccia's *Polity of the Christian Church*, Book ii. s. ii. c. i., p. 192.

who refers to large bells—*Campanæ*, or *Signa*, as they are frequently called—mentions them in his *Regula Monachorum*, written about A.D. 422, as being then used as a call to Matins and to the other canonical hours.* Two centuries later (A.D. 604) Pope Sabinian ordered the canonical hours to be sounded on the bells; and they are mentioned in the *Ordo Romanus* of that date, as well as in other writings of the close of that century.† Half a century later we find a bell in England. Bede mentions the existence of one at Whitby in the year 680, which was used to awake and to call the nuns to prayer.‡ The second Excerption of Egbert, issued about the year 750, commands every priest, at the proper hours, to sound the bells of his church, and then to go through the sacred Offices of God. Ingulph tells of a ring of seven bells—and gives their names—as being at Croyland Abbey at the close of the tenth century.§ Bells were cast, for the great Religious House at Abingdon, under the direction of S. Æthelwold; and S. Dunstan (who died A.D. 977), not only cast bells for the same House and for Canterbury Cathedral,‖ but drew up a set of rules for their use. Lanefranc (who died a century later) also drew up rules for the ringing of the bells for the canonical hours. Indeed, there is every reason for believing that at the Norman Conquest bells were plentiful in England, and that then, or shortly afterwards, the art of bellfounding was not only well understood, but carried to

* Quoted by Rocca *De Campanis*, Opera, Romæ 1719, vol. i., p. 156.

† Walcott's *Sac. Arch.*, p. 66.

‡ *Eccl. Hist.*, Book iv. c. xxiv. (Gidley's translation.)

§ Ingulph's *Chron.* (Bohn's Ed.), p. 107.

‖ Rock's *Church of our Fathers*, iii. Part 2, p. 57.

great perfection in this country. The grand old Norman towers of our churches clearly point to the large and heavy bells which they were erected to contain, and the law of Curfew, enforced by the Conqueror, proves the general distribution of bells throughout the country.

In the thirteenth century *Campanæ Magnæ* are mentioned in the necessary furniture of an English church,* and every such church would appear to have then possessed one bell or more; the chroniclers, too, constantly refer to the ringing of bells amongst the usual marks of rejoicing and of welcome.† It is in that century that we meet with a regular bellfounder by trade, Roger de Ropeford, who, in the year 1284, was employed to cast four bells for the north tower of Exeter Cathedral.‡

In the Middle Ages, and, indeed, in much more recent times, when the roads were bad and the movement of heavy material difficult, bells were often cast within the precincts of Religious Houses, in churchyards, and even, occasionally, within the church itself. Bellfounders, too, itinerated, setting up their furnaces in central situations, doing all the work they could obtain from the neighbourhood around, and then moving on.

After the bell was cast, and before raising it to its final place in the bell-chamber, it was set apart for its future use by a solemn ceremonial, and by the recitation of an Office which has been variously termed the Blessing, the Consecration, and

---

* See Peacock's *Church Furniture*, pp. 177-9.

† See especially Matthew of Paris.

‡ Ellacombe's *Bells of Exeter Cathedral* p. 3.

the Baptism of the bell. The use of this Office, if not coeval with the introduction of the church bell, is certainly of great antiquity. This we gather from the fact that Charlemagne issued, in the year 789, an express order against the baptism of bells. The *De Benedictione Signi vel Campanæ* of the Roman Pontifical follows the ceremonies enjoined in the more ancient Offices. The bell having been first washed by the Bishop with water into which salt had been cast, was anointed by him with holy oil and chrism, he saying :—

> "*Sancti + ficetur, et conse + cretur Domine Signum istud : in nomine Pa + tris et Fi + lii, et Spiritûs + Sancti in honorem Sancti N. Pax tibi.*"

After which the inside of the bell was censed. This Office, which had many characteristics of Holy Baptism, was made even more conspicuously similar by the introduction of other—apparently unauthorized—ceremonies, so that, at least in the eyes of the vulgar, it assumed a too close and irreverent resemblance to that holy Sacrament. These additions were the giving of a name—not the simple dedication of the bell in honour of a certain saint—and the use of sponsors. These customs prevailed in France, and also in England, where the chief duty of the sponsors appears to have been to pay the costs attending the consecration. Thus in 1499, when the great bell, named Harry, was hallowed at Reading, we are told that certain persons were "godfaders and godmother at the consecracyon of the same bell, and beryng all o^r^ costs to the suffrygan."* There is a tradition attaching to the ancient

* *Notes and Queries*, 3rd s., vii., p. 90.

Sanctus-bell now hanging in Dunstable, in this county, illustrative of this custom: it is to the effect that at its consecration "there was a gorgeous ceremonial, at which Matilda, daughter of Malcolm, King of Scotland, acted as godmother."

To the ancient and—when not accompanied with undue ceremonial calculated to mislead—laudable custom of blessing or setting apart of bells for holy uses we owe the origin of bell inscriptions. The earliest form of inscription is simply the name of the saint in whose honour the bell was cast, placed upon it by the founder, and which name was ratified at its consecration. Upon the largest, or tenor bell, was frequently placed the name of the patron saint of the church, and upon the smaller ones, perhaps, the names of saints whose altars were formerly in the church below, or who were patrons of ancient Guilds or Confraternities in the parish. Of bells of this class (though not necessarily of this early date) may be mentioned one in this county—the 3rd at Carlton, inscribed :—

+ S MARTHE.

Though the earliest bells do not generally tell us anything as to their date, or the foundry where they were cast, a few early dated English bells have been found : one at S. Chad's, Claughton, Lancashire, is dated 1296 ; another at Cold Ashby, Northamptonshire, is dated 1317 ; two at South Somercotes, Lincolnshire, bear the date 1423 ; and two others at Sowerby, in the same county, tell us they were cast in the year 1431.

The early inscriptions are usually in stately, and frequently

richly ornamented Gothic capital letters, and in Latin—the language of the mediæval church.

We soon meet with slight extensions of the inscriptions, such as—to quote Bedfordshire examples :—

Nomen Campana Michaelis Fidelis Mesūris

at Cople, and

SVM CAMPANA MARIE MATRIS MESSIE PIE

at Hawnes.

Although bells cast in pre-Reformation times are, as a rule, undated, they generally bear founders' marks, initial crosses, and other means of recognition by which they can be classified, and, in many cases, assigned to their respective dates and foundries. Care must, however, be taken in so using these bell stamps, for as foundries often went on for generations, and even centuries, so the stamps were sometimes handed down from one founder to another, and so were used for a long period.

On bells from the fourteenth century to the period of the Reformation we very frequently find the invocation *Ora pro nobis* added to the name of the saint, thus :—

Sancta Maria Ora Pro Nobis

at Edworth, and

Sancta Margareta Ora Pro Nobis

at Eyeworth.

These invocations were taken from the Litany, and many of

the other inscriptions found on ancient bells, doubtless owe their origin to the various Offices of the mediæval church: the 4th bell at Kempston has an inscription of that character, although its actual source is unknown :—

EX ALMA DATA SALVET NOS VIRGO BEATA,

and the 5th at Willington :—

O Martir Xpõfore Pro Nobis Semper Orate.

The angelic salutation—in part or in whole—appears upon many pre-Reformation bells, as, to confine ourselves to this county :—

AVE MARIA,

at Sundon and Thurleigh.

Occasionally we find figures of the Blessed Virgin and Child, of men and of angels, on bells of this date. At Impington, Cambridgeshire, the Evangelistic symbols appear; but Bedfordshire gives us no example of such, neither are there, as is sometimes, though very rarely, the case in other counties, any earlier inscriptions in English than some found on bells cast at the close of the sixteenth century.

At the date of which we are now speaking there was no such thing known as change-ringing, and, indeed, it would appear that neither ringing "rounds" nor chiming in "tune" was possible in the great majority of our churches. The returns from the different parishes, obtained in the reign of Edward the Sixth, speak of each as possessing a certain

number of bells apparently unfit for musical chiming or ringing, but quite adequate to the customs of the time. Towards the close of the sixteenth century, however, care was sometimes taken, when bells were re-cast, to have them "in tune."*

The decay of Gothic art, followed by the Reformation, produced many changes in connection with bells, as with other ornaments of the church. The stately Gothic capital and the quaint small "black letter," gradually gave place to clumsy Roman letters for the inscriptions. The beautiful initial cross also gradually disappeared. Figures of saint or angel were discarded. English, although it did not altogether supplant Latin, gained a full share of use on the bells. Ancient inscriptions were sometimes erased, and the old forms dropped, at first to give place to mottoes of a reverent character, which soon, however, drifted, in many instances, into doggrel rhyme—stupid, frivolous, and thoroughly out of place, or into a bare list of names of vicar and churchwardens. Dates, in Arabic numerals, now appear on every bell, and founders' names abound. Specimens of all these will be found in the bells of this county hereinafter described.

Sometimes eighteenth century bells bear the names of their donors, or commemorate some event of national interest, but bell inscriptions (with some praiseworthy exceptions), after the middle of the seventeenth century, afford little interest.

In the second year of Edward the Sixth's reign, a

* Several instances are quoted in North's *Church Bells of Lincolnshire*, p. 19.

Commission was issued to inquire into the quantity and value of church furniture and ornaments throughout England, and to forbid their sale or misappropriation. Unfortunately for our present purpose, the results of that Commission, so far as regards Bedfordshire, are unknown to us. The Certificate of the Local Commissioners, which would have shown the number of bells then hanging in its steeples, cannot now be found. That of the gentlemen appointed as Commissioners for the survey of all Colleges, Chantries, etc., is, however, extant, but from it we learn little beyond their names and the Returns from two Chantries. It is as follows :—

The Countye of bedforde. The certyfycat of Syr John Saynt John Knyght S^r^ Thomas Rotheram Knyght and Wyłłm Smyth Gent' Coñyssyons' wythin y^e^ countye of Bedf'.

Amonges other authorised by the Kyngꝭ Mayesties letters patentꝭ of coñyssyon beryng date the xiiij day of ffebruary in the second yere of the raign of o^r^ so^v^ayn lord Edward the syxt by the grace of God Kyng of Ingland ffraunce and Ireland defendo^r^ of the ffayth and in Erth of the churche of Ingland and Ireland the supreme hed To S^r^ John Saynt John S^r^ Antony Lee S^r^ Robert Drury S^r^ Thomas Rotheram knyghts Henr Bradshawe Esquyer George Gyfford & Wyłłm Smyth Gent' directed ffor the survey of all Colledges ffrechapells Chauntries ffraternyties Brotheddꝭ Guyldꝭ Stypendaries Obytes Anniv'saries lightes and other like w^th^in the countyes of Bedf' and Buck' havyng or beyng at any tyme w^th^in v yeres next before the fourth day of November last past viz Touchyng as well the yerely value of all the manors landꝭ possessyons & heredytamentꝭ stockꝭ of money stockꝭ of Cattell Juells plate ornamentꝭ and other goodꝭ to theym or any of theym wythin the said Countye of Bedf' or els where belongyng or appteignyng w^th^ the yerely repris' & deduccons goyng out of the same And also thaunswering procedyng in that behalf as here after folowyth

The College of Northewelle

. . . . . .

The Chauntry of Bydenham bridge
in y^e^ pishe of Bromham

[*Omitting the particulars up to*]

Goodes and Ornamentꝭ belonging to the sayd Chauntry as aperith by Inventory remaynyng w^th^ ij belles valued at . } iij*li.* x*s.* iiij*d.*

The Chauntry of Wyboston in the pyshe of Eton

[*Omitting Lands, etc.*]

Goodes and Ornamentꝭ belonging to the said Chauntry as aperith by Inventory remaynyng w^th^ one belle valued at . } xxxvij*s.* vj*d.**

The Commission of 1549 failing to complete its object, about four years afterwards—in 1552—another was issued, which carried out its purpose more effectually. A copy of the one for this county is here given:—

Edward the Syxt, etc. To our deare Cousyn and Counsaillour William Marques of Northampton, Great Chamberleyn of England, and to our trustie and right welbeloved John Lord Braye, and to our trustie and welbeloved John Seynt John, and Uryan Brereton, Knights, and to our welbeloved Lewes Dyve and Richard Snowe, Esquyers, greting Whereas We have at sondry tymes heretofore by our speciall Commyssion, and otherwyse commaunded that ther shuld be takyn and made a just veu, survey, and inventory of all manner goodes, plate, juells, vestyments, bells, and other ornaments within every paryshe, belongyng or in any wyse apperteynyng to any Churche, Chapell, Brothered, Gylde, or Fraternyty, within this our Realme of England, and uppon the same Inventory so taken, had, or made, our commaundement was and hathe ben, that all the same goodes, plate, juells, vestments, bells, and other ornaments, shuld be safely kept and appoyncted to the charge of such persons as shuld kepe the same safely, and be ready to aunswere to the same at all tymes according to the whiche our Commyssyons and sundry

* *Augmentation Office: Chantry Certificate No.* 1, pp. 9, 10, 18.

Commaundements. We were advertysed by our said Commyssioners then appoyncted and by other meanes also, that the said goodes, plate, juells, vestyments, belles, and other ornaments of the said Churches, Chapells, Brotherhedds, Gylds, Fraternytyes, and Companyes, were not only vieued and duly surveyd, but also that the Inventories therof were made by Indenture, and thon part of the same remayned with our Custos Rotulorum of that Countye, or hys Deputye or Clerke of the peax at that tyme being, and the other part with the Churchewardens and such men as had the charge of the same goodes and other Inventories also made by our commaundement by our Busshoppes and their Ecclesiasticall Officers, were lykewyse by them retorned hyther to our Counsaill: yet nevertheless for that we be informed that somme part of the said goodes, plate, juelles, belles, and ornaments of Churches be in somme places embeselled or removed contrarye to our former expresse commaundements, and manyfestlye to the contempt and derogacion of our honar in that behalfe, We have thought mete to have the very truthe herin justly and duly knowen, to thintent the same may be as ys most necessarye redressed and furthwith reformed. And for that purpose for the good knowledge and experyence had in your trustynes, faithfulnes, wisdome, and uprightnes, we have appoyncted you to be our special Commyssioners, and by auctoryty hereof do name, appoynct, and actoryse you four, or three of you, to take and receave a due, full, and just vieu of all goodes, plate, jeuells, bells, and ornaments of every Churche and Chapell in whose hands soever the same be belonging, or in any wyse apperteynyng to any the said Churches, Chapells, Gylds, Brotherhedds, or Fraternyties within that our Countie of Bedford. And upon the said vieu so taken to cause a true, just, and full, perfect Inventory to be made of the same, and to compare the same with the best of the former Inventories heretofore made and remaynyng with the said Churchwardens, or suche other as then hadd the same in charge. And for the defaults and wants yf any shalbe, eyther of the said plate, juelles, belles, vestyments, or any other ornaments, or any part of theym any manner of wyse, to make diligent inquyrye and serche as well by the othes of suche honest men as ye shall thinke mete to sweare therfore as any other convenyent meanes to knowe and understond by whose default the same hath been removed, embesiled, aliened, or dimynyshed. And also in whose possession the same things or any part therof so spoiled, removed, embeselled, or

demynysshed, do remayne, or to whose use the money and profett therof ys made oris comme, according tc the further meanyng of certen instruccions sent to you herewith, and of your hole doyngs in this behalf, to retorne unto us and our Pryvey Counsaill in wryting your answere accordingly. And yf ye shall fynde any person or persons that wilfully or stubburnlye will refuse to obey any precept or commaundement which you, our said Commyssioners, foure or three of you, shall geve unto theym in or about thexecucion of the premisses, that then we gyve unto you full power, auctorytie to commytt suche person or persons to warde and pryson, ther to remayne without baill or maynprice, untyll suche tyme as you shall think the same ymprisonment to be condigne for his or their offences. Wherfore Wee will and commaunde you and every of you to attende and execute the premysses accordinglye, and moreover Wee will and commaund all and singuler Mayours, Shereffes, Bayllyffes, Constables, Hedboroughes, all Curates, Parsons, Vicars, Churchwardens, and all other our Offecers, Minysters, and faithfull Subjects, that they and every of them be ayding, helping, counsailling, assisting, and furthering you in and aboute the due execucion herof as they tender our pleasure and will aunswer to the contrarye at ther extreme perells. In Witnes wherof, etc. T. R. apud [*sic*].*

Under this Commission, as will be observed, inquiry was made, upon oath, as to any loss which had accrued by the removal or misappropriation of church goods, to the different churches, since the Inventories of 1549 were made. A new, and in many cases, an appraised list was drawn up, and the goods therein mentioned were committed to the safe-keeping of the Curate and Churchwardens of the parish. A few of these Inventories, dated in August and September, 1552, for parishes in this County, are preserved amongst the *Land Revenue Records* in the Public Record Office, and will be quoted hereafter when the bells in those parishes are described.

* Printed in *Seventh Report of the Deputy-Keeper of the Public Records*, p. 307. Although not dated, there is little doubt it was issued in May, 1552.

One—that relating to Harlington—may be quoted in full as a specimen of the whole :—

THE INVYTORIE indented of all man' of plate, Jewellꝭ, vestimentꝭ, Ornamentꝭ and bellꝭ belonginge to the pysshe Churche of Harlyngdon in yᵉ coñ of Bed' made yᵉ second daye of September in yᵉ vjᵗʰ yere of yᵉ Rayne of oʳ Sov̊aigne lord Edward the sixt by yᵉ grace of god of England Fraunce & of Ierland Kynge Defendoʳ of the faithe & in erth yᵉ supʳme head of the churche of England & Ierland Exebyted & delyv̊ed to yᵉ Kingꝭ his maiestie Comyssyoners by Wiłm Alyson vycar Richard Hawkyns John Nasshe churchewardens John Spyc' alꝭ Helder Richard Mathew townesmen.

Imp'mis one chalice of siluer ꝑcell gylte waying ix oncꝭ

Itñ to crossys of coper & gylte

Itñ a corpus clothe wᵗ a case of syke [*sic*]

Itñ one payer of sensers of copeʳ

Itñ sixse vestmentꝭ v of them of sylke & one of them of whight bustyan

Itñ ij copes one of damaske whyght & the other of blew damaske

Itñ iij pillowes olde of silke

Itñ in yᵉ Stepull of yᵉ said churche v belles & a saunce bell—The first bell in wydenes ij foote & vij ynches in Depthe ij foote & one ynche the second bell ij foote & viij ynches in depthe ij foote the thurde bell ij fote wyde & ij foote depth yᵉ fowerth bell iij foote wyde & ij fote depth & a di yᵉ vth bell iij foote & di wyde ij foote & di depe the saunce bell wyde xj ynches & ix ynche depe

Itñ all the said churche & porche leaded & the chaunsell tyled & the stepull tyled

Coñitted to the custodie and safe kepynge of Wiłm Alyson Vicar there, John helder & Richard Mathewe

I Seynt John Vryan Brereton
Lewys Dyve
Richard Snowe

Endorsed :—Imp'mis one chalyce sold to John Spyce' iij*li.* iij*s.* iiij*d.* which was bestowed vpon the hye waye *

---

* *Land Revenue Records.* Bundle 1392, File 2, No. 2. P. R. Oft.

Again, in January, 1553, a third Commission was issued, under which the Commissioners had power and authority to "collect and bring together all and singuler redye money plate and Juelles certyfyed by our Commyssioners aforesaid [*i.e.*, under the previous Commission] to remayne in any church, chapell, Guild, Brothered, Fraternitye or Company in any shire Countye or place within this our Realme of England." This Commission, which is a long one, directed one or two chalices to be left out of the confiscated plate for use in every cathedral or collegiate church, and one chalice for every small parish church or chapel where chalices were remaining. It next provided for the sale or distribution of the other "ornaments and ymplements" of the churches, and, with regard to the bells, directed :—

> And also to sell or cause to be sold to our use by weight all parcels or peces of metall except the metall of greatt bell, saunse bells, in every of the said churches or chapells.*

This order as to the bells has generally been understood to direct the sale of all the large bells with the exception of the largest, or tenor, bell in each ring. What was meant, I think, was not the confiscation of all excepting one bell, but that all broken bells—"peces of metall"—and bells other than the parish bells proper, were to be sold, and the proceeds remitted to the King's exchequer. This view is borne out by the fact, abundantly proved, that the church bells were not sold, and also by the express injunction charged later in this same

---

* *Seventh Report of the Deputy-Keeper of the Public Records*, p. 312.

Commission upon all Deans, Provosts, Churchwardens, Ministers, and parishioners of the said churches and chapels :—

> That they and everye of them do safely kepe unspoiled, unembesiled, and unsold all suche bells as do remayne in everye of the said Churches and chapells and the same to conserve untill our pleasur be therein further knowne.

When the clean sweep intended under this Commission was effected, an Indented Inventory of the few goods left behind in each parish was drawn up, and a duplicate copy left with the Vicar and Churchwardens. Some of these Inventories are preserved in the Public Record Office, but none from Bedfordshire have at present been found.

From a letter, dated the 8th of May, 1556, concerning an inquiry as to certain plate, said on one side to belong to the church, and on the other to have been the property of the late Sir John Gostwyke, who used to lend it to the church for divine service, it appears that the Commissioners in the County of Bedford at that time were :—" S^{r} John Seint John Knight, John Gascoigne K., Vrian Brereton Knight, Nich. Luke esquier, John Seint John esquier, Lewes Dyve, Ric' Snowe & John Colbeke " *

About that time—1556—certain inquiries were instituted as to the apparent misappropriation of lead and bells then recently belonging to some of the former Religious Houses of the county. A document showing this is preserved among the *Land Revenue Records* in the Public Record Office, and which is worth quoting here :—

---

* *Land Revenue Record.* Bundle 1392, File 3. P. R. Off.

Leade & Bellys to be answeryd by dyv^se psones vnder wrytten ageynst whom it is mete to make owt pcesse

The Cyrcuyte of S^r ffraunc℘ Jobson, K. late Resceyvor of the Countye of	Bedf.
The L. Will^ams	The Lorde Wyllyams for v bellys of the late Monasterye of Woborne solde by hym by the reporte of W. Smythe Surveyor.
S^r ffraunc℘ Jobson	To speke w^t S^r ffraunc℘ Jobson Resceyvor for v Bellys of the late Monasterye of Warden.
S^r James Rattclyff	To calle S^r James Ratclyffe ffermer of Elstowe for iiij bell℘ there to hym delyv^ed as M^r Smyth informeth.
S^r Leon'de Chamb-'leyn	To speke w^t S^r Leon'de Chamb'leyn of Wodestok K^t for the lede of Dunstable amountynge to xlviij*ff.* or there abought℘ which he claymeth by the qwenes graunte ij yeres past.*
ff Jobson	To speke with s^r ff. Jobson for to knowe of hym what Bell℘ & howe manye in nombre dyd appteign to the late prioryes of Chyksande M'gate, Caldewell, Busshemede & Harrowe and who hadde them.
Thexec̄ & admynyst' of s^r John Gostwyke	To calle uppon thexec. & admynystrators of s^r John Gostwyke K. for xij*ff.* of lede of the late ffryers of Bedd. by hym. taken toward℘ byldyng℘ att Wyllyngeton as Mr Stepneth informeth.†

There are also other documents of the same date giving some information as to lead and bells: one says :—

---

* Site granted 12 June, 1554 (*Pat. R.* I Mary, part 6).

† *Land Revenue Records.* Church Goods 447/5.

Thoffice of Gregory Richardson Auditor of the Prestes Com. Bedf.

The Belles {
Chykesaunt.....[blank]
M'gate ..... iij
Caldewelle ..... vj
Elstowe ..... iij
Newnehame ..... vj
Harrolde ..... ij
Busshemeade.....[blank]
}

The leade { The leade of the Monastery*s* ['*s*' *struck through with pen*] of Chykesand ["*M'gate Caldewell Busshemeade & Harrolde dothe*" *struck through with pen*] amounte as apperithe in Mr Jobson's accompte de Anno xxxij^{do} where he tooke the allowaunce for caryage of the said leade ffrome Chykesand to Amptill } clix*ff.* ix*c.* vij*lib.*

Wherof delyvered to Auncelyne Salvage by warraunte lxxj*ff.* v*c.* j q^{a}rter iij*lib.* And so wantithe—$\frac{xx}{iiij.}$ viij*ff.*

The warrant under which this portion of the lead of Chykesand was delivered was dated London, the 22nd of December, 1551, and was addressed by Sir Richard Sakeville and Sir Walter Myldemay to Mr. Smyth, Surveyor of Bedfordshire; it was an order to deliver the metal to "Acelyne [Anceleine] Salvage, Marchaunte of Jeane [? Genoa].*

There is also preserved another document, substantially the same as the one just quoted, but it has the addition of the weight of bell-metal at the left-hand corner at top, thus:—"xv^{c}. di iiij*lib.*"

* *Land Revenue Records.* Church Goods, $\frac{447}{5}$.

Notwithstanding the Commissions issued in the reign of Edward VI., and the measures taken to prevent it, the occasional robbery of churches still went on. Queen Elizabeth, soon after her accession, tried to stop the mischief by issuing a Proclamation, in which it was said :—

> That some patrons of churches and others who were possessed of impropriations, had prevailed with the parson & parishioners to take or throw down the bells of churches or chapels & the lead of the same, & to convert the same to their private gain, by which ensued not only the spoil of the said churches, but even a slanderous desolation of the houses of prayer.

Therefore it was commanded :—

> That no manner of person should from thenceforth take away any bells or lead off any church or chapel under pain of imprisonment during Her Majesty's pleasure, & such further fine for the contempt as shall be thought meet.*

As is the case with the inquiry of 1549, so it is with that of 1552, so far as regards Bedfordshire; neither the Certificate of the local Commissioners, nor a complete set of the Returns from the different parishes can be found, and so the number of Church Bells in this county at that time cannot be ascertained. Judging from the existing Returns from thirteen parishes then sent in, and which I have recently found in the Public Record Office, the Church Bells of Bedfordshire have suffered very little loss in numbers since that time. In the thirteen parish churches to which I refer, there were in the year 1552 forty-nine large bells and five sanctus bells; in the same churches now there hang sixty large bells and two Priests'

* Quoted in *Heylyn's Hist. of Reformation*, ii. p. 339.

bells. These existing Returns are, most of them, very explicit in the description of the bells, some giving the estimated weight, as at Tingrith, and others giving the exact measurement of each bell, as at Salford. It must not be supposed from this praiseworthy state of things that the people of Bedfordshire were altogether proof against the temptations of the times. There is extant a letter, dated from Westminster, 16th May, 1556, signed by William Berners, Thomas Mildmay, and John Wyseman, and addressed to Thomas Strynger, of Meppershall, in this county, yeoman, by which he is ordered to appear in person before the writers at Westminster on the first day of Trinity Term then next, to answer concerning the detention of church goods formerly belonging to the parish church of Meppershall. There is also another letter from Thomas Hemmynge, of Arlesey, touching the order so given to Stringer, in which he excuses his (Stringer's) attendance at Westminster on the plea that "my neyghbour ys an olde man and not used to iorney," and enclosing his answer "concerninge the premises," which closes with a retort upon one of his supposed accusers—John Leventhorpe the elder, gentleman, of Meppershall—and says that he must needs speak of the "ymbeaselynge" of certain goods by the said Leventhorpe, which were not put in the Inventory :—

> "Imprimis he had a saunce belle hangynge yn the belfrey & converted the same to his owne use & never payd one peny therfore and by estymacon to be sold iiij markes or thereaboughtes." *

The inhabitants of Sandy, too, were at the same time called

---

* *Land Revenue Record.* Church Goods, 442, P.R. off. 17.

upon to account for two large bells, and made their defence in a letter addressed to the Commissioners, which is now preserved in the Public Record Office, and will be quoted hereafter.

In later times, too, a few parishes in Bedfordshire, as in other counties, lost their bells to save the pockets of the ratepayers. In 1809, when the tower of their ancient church was taken down, the people of Lidlington sold four bells; about sixty years ago Millbrooke lost a bell, and at the same time the Ridgmount folk sold three bells to raise money for the repairs of their church. Streatley had a bell broken by accident, never had it re-cast, and so wasted the metal. In 1799 Souldrop lost two bells, sold to raise money towards building a new and ugly church, which has, happily, been replaced by a more suitable building, in which hang three new bells. The Wilshampstead people sold, by license of the Bishop, three bells, in the year 1742, to keep to meet the expense of "repairing the steeple to its ancient dimensions," which, however, they failed to do. The good people of Arlesey having recently placed a new ring of six bells in their steeple, it is, perhaps, hardly fair to repeat against them the old distich current in the neighbourhood :—

> 'Arlesey, Arlesey, naughty people,
> Sold their bells to mend the steeple!'

and Sundon is traditionally believed to have sold four bells, and to have, very properly, never prospered since.

Two other causes operated to lessen, if not the number of bells, certainly the number of ancient ones, and to necessitate the substitution of modern ones in their place—ordinary (and in

some, not all, cases) unavoidable wear and tear is the cause of the gradual loss of a goodly number of ancient bells ; but the introduction of change-ringing in the seventeenth century produced a still greater havoc among them. Early in that century ringing increased in popularity, and Fabian Stedman, a printer, resident in Cambridge,who published his *Tintinnalogia* in 1668, is said to have reduced change-ringing to an art. To meet this new mode of ringing, important changes in the bells became necessary. The old rings consisted, usually, of few bells and heavy ones, dignity and grandeur of tone being the chief thing sought ; now, however, a larger number of bells, and those in musical sequence, was required by Stedman and his disciples. This want was usually met by re-casting the ring of, say, four heavy bells, into six or eight lighter ones, and so increasing the number without buying more metal. By this means a large number of our ancient bells disappeared from the larger town churches—Dunstable, S. Paul's, Bedford, and other churches in this county are examples—and it consequently ceases to be a matter of surprise that it is chiefly in small rural churches, with few bells, where the temptation to change-ringing could not exist, that we chiefly expect, and usually find, ancient bells.

Since Stedman's time the English have continued to be most enthusiastic lovers of the melody produced by a ring of bells ; indeed, so popular did the art of ringing become after the invention of "changes," that England became known as the "ringing island."

Bedfordshire was foremost in this national taste, as is shown by a manuscript preserved in the Bodleian Library,

Oxford.* This manuscript is a curious compound of prose, poetry, and music, in which English, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew are used. Although the separate portions were written at different dates—the earliest is dated in 1655, that is, before Stedman published his book on change-ringing—the whole of the manuscript is in one hand-writing, excepting the last page, which treats of the different modes of worship, which is in another, and a later, hand. Without attempting a full description of the contents of this manuscript, which would be tedious—many of the verses are mere doggrel—enough may be quoted to show that change-ringing was then in vogue in this county, and that Mr. Palmer, of Bedford, and his team—called in the verses "his sons"—were noted ringers.

After a long title, and ten lines in Latin and English from the Apocalypse, the Psalms, and the Prophet Isaiah, we have

An Epigrañe
To Bedford Ringers, especially to M^r^ Palmer, Principle in y^t^ noble Consort

What is't I heare? is some cælestiall Quire
Of Angels now descended; from their higher
Sacred Mansions Here to ring a Peale
In th' eares of Mortalls: Thus thinking to steale
By these diuiner Ayres, each mortalls heart
Into a sublime Rapture; Quite a part
From sublunary things; Or doe I heare
Th' effect of Phansy ringing in mine eare?
No, no, such Musicke Phansy doth exceede,
And 'tis too meane from Angels to proceede:
But, 'tis brave Palmer's Art, which now doth raise
Such Harmony: Too great for mortall praise,

* *Rawlinson*, D. 886.

Which must confesse 'tis farr beneath ye worth
Of Palmer and his Sonnes;* whose happy Births,
Are celebrated in these quick'ning Straines,
Which far exceede ye Ayres of Vulgar braines,
Who only can admire, not understand
How you should have your bells so at coñand
- - - - - - - - - -
- - - - - - - - - -
- - - - - As we with musick meet
Between ech witty Act in Coñicke-Playes;
So all Thy Acts present farr better Layes:
But yet these Praises to Thy merit due
Thy sons must by yt right inherit too;
For† Faldo,[a] Eston,[b] Cobbe,[c] and Spencer[d] are
All Roy-all-Consorts in ye same Affaire
And claime all equall Portions, for none can
In Ringing well, say Hee's ye elder man.
To praise your musique Poëtry affords
Too little witt, and is too poore in words.
But (though not speake it fully) I will try
In meeter, to lispe out your melody:
Yet there's no neede yt I should set it forth,
When e'vy Bell that's rung, sounds its owne worth.
Musick's a noble Science; will revive
A drooping spirit, and preserve alive
A melancholly Soul: nay this doth give
Our Bodies Action, and by this we live
For all our life, as seu'rall Lessons, is
By our Souls, on; th' Organs, of our bodies
Play'd into seu'rall Actions: But as
Some Instruments we know, doe farr surpasse
Others for Musicke; So ye Wide-mouth'd Bell
None other Musique 'ere could paralell.

---

* "Fellow Ringers Because He was ye most ancient and best of them."

† "Viz. [a] Mathæ,' [b] Andreas, [c] Edm', [d] Nicola' Gen'."

As some One will better musique make,
Than He that to doe best doth under take,
So, you and your Societie excell
All other yt could ever ring a Bell :
Then go you on, as you have well begun
That all may grieved be, when yee have done.

Et paulò pòst

They only now who with the Times can change
Are men of great esteeme : methinks 'tis strange ;
That noble—Bedford—Ringers should be then
(When they so well can change) no greater men.

From these lines (to which is appended the name, as writer, of John Tabor, of S. John's College, Cambridge, 1655) we learn that the band consisted of five men, whose names are given; five is now the favourite number of bells in Bedfordshire steeples, more than one-third of the whole of the churches having that number.

After this "Epigrame," we have from the pen of the same John Tabor :—

An Exasticke presented to Mr. Palmer & ye rest of yt Consort

from which we gather that they had then recently been rather neglecting the "exercise;" the writer inquires :—

What ? sure Thy dextrous hand hath not The ecchoing Bell to guide forgot
Or, hath Thyne owne Sons lately to Thee disobedient growne ?

We have next thirty-four lines written in April, 1657, by "T. W. Scoto-Britann' Ætatis circū octogesimum," in honour of Palmer and "his sonnes & Children deare": those are

succeeded by some of equal merit, signed "J. Dalt: S.S. The: P *—57°" and closing with :—

Say, are not Bells of a diviner Birth
Fiddles are made by men, but of y^e^ earth.
England's y^e^ Ringing Ile may I divine?
Palmer's the second Englands Palmerine.
Now go & prosper still, returne agen
I am your Priest, will Clerke be too, Amen.

Edmund Allen, of Wootton, was the writer of the next verses, in 1655, addressed :—

To y^e^ much admired Bedfordian Company of Ringers: Especially Mr. Oliver Palmer, Chiefe of y^t^ Musicall Society.

It was my Chance lately abroad to be
In place where I Bell-musicke sweet did heare,
Still I did stand, minding those straines so high,
Which at y^e^ first, strange to me did appeare:
Such sublime Sallies in y^e^ same I found
That I was forced a while to stand my ground.
. . . . . .
. . . . . .
'Tis not for nothing y^t^ Thy Name is blowne
So far abroad y^t^ there be Hundreds can
Discourse of Palmer though Thou beest not known
To them but by Thy Bellgohandlican:
Thy Silken-Rope is up so everywhere
That Thou a Grace art to our Bedfordshiere
. . . . . .
. . . . . .

These lines show the delight with which change-ringing, then a new art, was heard; they also refer to the "silken rope'

* S. T. P., *i.e.* D.D. I suppose.

with which Palmer evidently rang his bell. "Thy silken rope" is also mentioned in the "Exasticke" to which reference has just been made; and "T. W." further says :—

> When hempen-Rope doth hurt his hand
> For silken-Rope Hee's at no stand.

Then follow some pedantic lines by an anonymous writer, in the form of a letter addressed "To his much esteemed Mr. Oliver Palmer in Bedford, these," and commencing "Melodious S^r.^"

This curious manuscript-book—on p. 38 *b.* of which is written "Thomas Mollas his Book"—further contains twenty lines of Latin elegiac Verses "In laudem Vellentium & Pulsantium Campanarū," by Samuel Luke, of Aubersley, Huntingdonshire, who writes of five bells and one hundred and twenty changes; about thirty-six pages devoted to "Vox Campanarū," comprising Psalm tunes and sets of changes on four, five, and six bells, written in Hebrew letters instead of figures, others in which Greek letters are used as well as Hebrew,* and concludes with an account of "a six-fold manner of praising y^e^ Lord, Mentall, Monumentall, Chordall, Cordiall, Vocall, and Actuall"!

If other evidence were necessary to show that change-ringing was popular in this County in the early days of its existence, the well-known and often quoted anecdote of John Bunyan as an enthusiastic ringer at Elstow might be mentioned. There are also other reasons for thinking that

---

* The Rev. J. T. Fowler, F.S.A., has set two of the tunes in musical notation for Mr. Ellacombe's *Bells of the Church*, pp. 301-4.

the love of it continued for some years afterwards. In 1733 the Rev. Samuel Roe, Vicar of Stotfold, was a "Cambridge Youth," and as such would hardly fail to keep alive in his neighbourhood the love of bell music. In 1745, when the parishioners of S. Paul's, Bedford, increased their ring from five bells to eight, the Common Council paid six guineas to eight men from St. Nicholas, Cornhill, London, for ringing the opening peals. It is hoped that the emulation of the then local ringers was stirred up by that proceeding, and that they soon became as expert as their friends from London.

Twenty years later, whether the art was still well practised or not, it is evident that the love of Church Bells and their music was still strong in the County. The Rev. Samuel Rogers, who was Rector of Chellington from 1758 to 1768, wrote "a Poem addressed to a Bell Founder and Chime Maker," which, though long, is so good in many of its lines that an apology for its introduction here is hardly necessary :—

Since you, good Sir, (whose fame each Country tells
For founding, hanging, and attuning Bells.)
Since you, to them adjust harmonious Chimes,
Soft, artful echo of the poet's rhimes,
The muse, in verse with pleasure shall relate
Thy Art, assistant both to Church and State.
She means not, Sir, her time and pains to waste
On tinkling Hand-bells of inferior cast;
What Stentor rings, with gravity of phiz,
To usher in the importance of "O Yez."
Nor those which, jingling from the foremost load,
Cheer each slow-footed pack-horse on the Road.
Nor those that ring a thousand times a day
Whom waiters, maids, and footmen all obey.

Far nobler themes I sing, the lofty power
Of sound, from yon old venerable tower,
Which in loud clangor rends the echoing air,
When happy Damon weds the blooming fair.
Or furious Britons on th' embattled plain,
Vanquish'd their foes, the fields' great masters reign.
When Roman heroes with the spoil of wars
Approach'd the city in triumphal cars,
While gladsome pæans hail'd the glorious day
And fresh-cull'd flowers bestrew'd the public way
Had bells but rung, complete had been their joys,
And fuller shouts of triumph rent the skies.
Ev'n fancy now, brings to my ravish'd ears,
Notes like the fam'd music of the spheres.
Hark! they come floating on each spreading gale
Down Tyber's stream, thro' all the neighbouring vale.
From Jove's high Capitol how strong they sound,
And Rome's seven hills re-echo all around.
The nice divisions viols boast, the harp
Abounds with strings, whose notes are flat and sharp,
Tho' various stops the solemn Organ grace,
The sprightly treble, and majestic bass,
Yet say what bass, what treble can excel
The chearful matin, or the funeral knell?
What note like that which sounds from Paul's high dome,
From Oxford, or fam'd Lincoln's mighty Tom?
What diapason like their lofty hum?
Nor less have Bells our passions at command
Than vocal choir, or instrumental Band;
When the deep sound tolls slow o'er solemn biers,
See! pity droops, and sorrow sheds her tears.
But whene'er gay festivities draw nigh,
And happy seasons call forth public joy,
What notes more lively can our senses know,
Than the loud changes, which melodious flow,
From Bride's, Saint Martin's, Michael's, Overy's, Bow,
And thence convey'd along the bordering streams,

Rejoice each village on the banks of Thames?
When Bells hail in great George's natal day,
When every village, every town is gay,
On market-hills, when crackling bonfires blaze,
While ev'ry street rebellows with huzzas,
Then, then our souls true patriot pleasures feel
As each high steeple gives the joyous peal;
In every tavern honest healths go round,
And Jacobites grow loyal ev'n by sound.
Let Handel play, and Frasi charm the fair
With Op'ra songs, and soft Italian air,
Our country swains with greater pleasure hear
Famed Majors, Caters, Triples, and Grandsire,
Which while they ring sonorous, clear and sweet,
The face of commerce smiles along the street;
Their merry sounds ev'n some refreshment yield
To toiling husbandmen amidst the field;
Let skilful Germans, with their hands and feet,
Still play their chimes, and labour still and sweat,
Far more the barrel does our wonder move,
Which strikes the hammers on the bells above,
Taught thus with sounds melodious to prolong
Playford's grave psalm or Purcel's tuneful song.
No longer Albion, for the time to come,
Shall raise her armies by the beat of drum,
Her youth but coldly mind what Captains say
Of pleasant quarters, or of present pay;
But when they hear, in notes exalted higher,
"Britons strike home" from yonder sacred spire,
Their spirits kindling at the martial song,
Rush furious to "revenge their Country's wrong."
In vain a sister bids her brother stay,
In vain invents new causes of delay.
In vain the mother would her son detain,
And black-eyed Susan sheds her tears in vain.
See the brave lads, whilst brighter glory charms,
Resistless break from their opposing arms.

Cheerful to war in burning climes they run,
As if, the labour of the harvest done,
They meant themselves a while but to regale,
With merry dancing, and with cakes and ale.
Nor here forget the pious founder's care
When notes discordant strike th' offended ear;
Soon as the constant sounds are known,
He pares off all excressences of tone,
Studious examines all, till all agree,
Note following note in truest harmony.
Thus bards retrench each rough poetic draught,
And lop off all redundancy of thought,
Correcting long what they had wrought too soon,
Smooth each harsh line, and turn them into tune.
Proceed, great man, whose fam'd mechanic hand
Works wondrous service to thy native land;
Proceed, till chimes, by thy auspicious art,
Raise noblest passions in each British heart;
Proceed, till squeamish schismatics shall deign
To hear their sounds, nor think their music vain,
No longer Bells with Popery condemn,
But, turn'd to peace, learn harmony from them.
Hence village swains thy bells and fame shall raise,
The muse you aid shall chime in grateful lays
And every town ring loudly of thy praise.*

---

* The Rev. Samuel Rogers (the son of the Rev. Benj. Rogers, who was Rector of Chellington for upwards of fifty years, and died in 1771, aged 85 years), was Rector of Chellington-cum-Carlton for about ten years—namely, from March, 1758, when he was instituted, until the year 1768, when he resigned Chellington for a living in Northamptonshire. It was during his residence in Bedfordshire that he wrote the above poem. I do not know where the lines were first printed; it may have been in a volume of poems he is said to have published early in life. The above copy is from *A Key to the Art of Ringing*. By Jones, Reeves & Blackmore (p. 278), published, probably, in the year 1796. The circumstances under which the poems was written, and the name of the founder addressed, are alike unknown. It will be seen that neither the bells of Carlton nor of Chellington are of that date. The Rev. Samuel Rogers was subsequently Rector of Husbands-Bosworth, in Leicestershire. He published two volumes of Poems (8vo.) in 1782, printed at Bath, in which an indifferent portrait of him is given. He married

In 1801 we find a record of the Society of College Youths ringing 5040 Grandsire Triples at Leighton Buzzard, but it is evident that the love of change-ringing had then waned in Bedfordshire. Since that time, and until quite recently, the bells of the county—speaking generally—have been much and sadly neglected. Many of the rings have been allowed to fall into a deplorably dilapidated condition. But, as it may be accepted as an axiom that whenever real ringing is unknown dirt and neglect of all matters connected with the bells and belfry reign supreme, it is satisfactory to know that a "Bedfordshire Association of Change-ringers" has recently been formed. It has been originated mainly by the exertions of Mr. Charles Herbert, of Woburn, who has spared neither time nor energy in endeavouring to bring about a better state of things in the belfries of his County. Being himself an enthusiastic ringer, he has imbued others with a love for bell music, and also by inculcating the proper use of bells as "ornaments" of the Church, he has enlisted—as he well deserves to do—the sympathy and co-operation of very many of the clergy and gentry of Bedfordshire in the welfare of the new Society, which will, it is hoped, be the means of reviving that love for change-ringing which we have seen was so well understood here two hundred years ago.

Miss Catherine Peers, but died, without issue, at the Close, Salisbury, in July, 1790.

For these biographical particulars about the Rev. Samuel Rogers, I am indebted to the kindness of a representative of his family, Mr. John Rogers, of Chellington, who possesses a manuscript diary of remarkable events kept by the above named Rev. Benj. Rogers, the father of the poet.

THE CHURCH BELLS OF BEDFORDSHIRE.

THERE are now in the Bedfordshire Churches 564 Church Bells. That number includes 22 Priests and other small ones. The 542 large bells are thus distributed :—

8 Rings of 8 bells	64
13 Rings of 6 bells	78
47 Rings of 5 bells	235
18 Rings of 4 bells	72
18 Rings of 3 bells	54
8 Rings of 2 bells	16
Single bells	23
	542

To the 564 Church Bells may be added, as worthy of notice, the clock bell at Battlesden House, thus making a total of 565 bells to be described.

Of these 565 bells, only the small number of 53, or about 9 per cent., can be said to have been cast before the year 1600, being a smaller proportion of ancient bells than is found in Leicestershire ($14\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.), Northamptonshire ($10\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.), Lincolnshire ($17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.), or Rutland (16 per cent.)

There is only one complete ring of ancient bells hanging in this county—that of three at Hockliffe.

The Dedications and Legends of these 53 ancient bells may be thus classified :—

Two (Staughton Parva 4th and Wymington 4th) are inscribed

Sit Nomen Domini Benedictum ;

one (Maulden 1st) has the joyous

Te Deum Laudamus ;

another (Old Walden 3rd) has the prayer :—

XPE AUDI NOS.

One bell (Northill 1st) is dedicated to the Archangel Gabriel, one (Cople 4th) to the Archangel Michael, and one (Wymington 5th) to the Archangel Raphael.

Eight of these ancient bells are dedicated to, bear inscriptions relating to, or addressed to, the Blessed Virgin Mary in these forms :—

AVE MARIA

at Salford (3rd), Sundon (single), and Thurleigh (5th) ;

AVE MARIA GRACIA PLENA

on the ancient Sanctus-bell at Dunstable ;

SANCTA MARIA ORA PRO NOBIS

at Edworth (3rd) and Milbrooke (1st) ; the 3rd bell at Hawnes has the unusual inscription :—

SVM CAMPANA MARIE MATRIS MESSIE PIE,

and the 4th at Kempston (what is intended for)—

EX ANNA NATA SALVET NOS VIRGO BEATA.

One bell (Campton 3rd) is dedicated to S. Andrew; one (Hockliffe 1st) to S. Augustine; one (Willington 5th) to S. Christopher; two (Carlton 4th and Harlington 4th) to S. John; two (Chellington 4th and Wilden 2nd) to S. Katherine; one (Carlton 3rd) to S. Martha, a very unusual dedication; three (Eyeworth 1st, Hockliffe 3rd, and Tingrith 3rd) to S. Margaret; one (Wymington 3rd) to S. Mary Magdalene; one (Chalgrave 1st) to S. Nicholas; one (Campton 2nd) to S. Paul; two (the Priest's bell at Lidlington and Stotfold 2nd) to S. Peter; and one (Hockliffe 2nd) to S. Thomas. Ten of these bells (Bolnhurst 2nd and 3rd, Clapham 3rd, Clifton 8th, Harlington 5th, Houghton Regis 5th, Maulden 3rd, Meppershall 1st, Tingrith 1st, and Willington 4th) have the names of the founders only; one (Northill 2nd) has the names of the donors only; two (Hulcote 2nd and 3rd) have the names of both founders and donors. Two other of these ancient bells (Fandish 3rd and Harlington 1st) have the invitation—

CVM CVM AND PRAY.

One (Studham 3rd) calls upon all listeners to

PRIES THE LORD;

another (Thurleigh 2nd) has the loyal prayer—

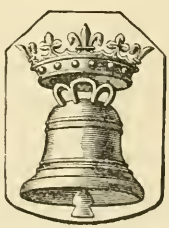
GOD SAVE THE QUEENE.

Two bells at Clifton (two of four which evidently bore originally on each a single line of a complete verse) say :—

BVT THER CONSERT IN MEWSIK
DOTH PLES WELL OVR EARE.

On one of these ancient bells (the 4th at S. Mary's, Bedford) there are founders' stamps only, and on another (Roxton 3rd) the date only.

The earliest dated bell in Bedfordshire is the 5th at Houghton Regis, cast in 1580; the largest is the single bell given to the new church at Woburn by the Duke of Bedford in 1867—it weighs two tons fifteen hundredweight; and many people consider the most interesting one to be the 4th at Elstow, called "Bunyan's bell," of which more will be said hereafter, when the bells of that parish are described.



THE BEDFORDSHIRE BELLFOUNDERS.

THE only permanent Bellfoundry at present known to have been established in this county was carried on during the greater part of the eighteenth century at Wootton, a village five miles south-west of Bedford.

THOMAS RUSSELL, who was a clock and watch maker as well as a bellfounder, supplied the 1st bell at Aspley Guise, and the 2nd at Harlington, in the year 1715, those being the earliest bells in this county from his foundry. He was married twice, and had six children—three sons and three daughters. His first son, John, died in his infancy, but Thomas, baptized 8th February, 1707-8, and William, baptized 27th September, 1710, were, in due time, associated with their father in the foundry. On the 3rd bell at Wootton, dated 1736, we find "Thomas Rvssell, William Rvssell fecit," and on the 1st and 4th bells at Bromham we read, "Thomas Rvssell of Biddenham and William Rvssell of Wootton made me in 1739." The Biddenham Registers indicate that the residence of Thomas Russell the younger in that parish was only temporary, apparently extending from about the year 1734 to the year 1740, during which period he had three sons baptized there; but no entries relating to the family are

found after the last mentioned date. Thomas Russell, the elder (who supplied bells still hanging in this county, dated from, as just said, the year 1715 to the year 1743, when he sent bells to Barton-le-Clay, Thurleigh, and Westoning) died in 1744-5; the Parish Register of Wootton says he was buried on the 22nd of January in that year, and describes him as "Clock-maker and Bellfounder." The Russells used no inscriptions upon their bells in this county beyond their names as founders, and those of churchwardens. They, rarely, used a vine as a border-ornament, as on the 5th bell at Sandy. They used a plain cross occasionally—though not generally—as an initial, as at Thurleigh; placed many impressions of coins amongst their inscriptions, and not unfrequently, as on Stotfold treble, gave an impression of a Pentacle, the five-point star of modern Freemasonry, which denotes the five points of fellowship, and that the man using it was a master mason; no doubt, at the revival of Masonry in 1717, and onwards, men would be proud of showing that they belonged to the craft. Upon the death of Thomas Russell, the foundry at Wootton appears to have been closed for some years; we find no bells bearing the name of Russell after the year 1743, so it may be presumed that the sons of Thomas Russell did not carry on the business after the death of their father. A quarter of a century subsequently to that event the Wootton foundry was reopened by

WILLIAM EMERTON, whose father, John Emerton, of Marston Moretaine, married Hannah Cary, of Wootton, on the 8th of January, 1699-1700, as is recorded in the Wootton Register. Their son William, who married Mary Warren in

1766, is described in the entry of marriage in the Wootton Register as a "Clockmaker." Upon his marriage he commenced business as a Bellfounder in Wootton, sending the 4th bell to Ampthill in the year 1768, and continuing to supply bells to various churches in the county until the year 1789, the date upon the 3rd bell at Eversholt. He sent an entire ring of five to Tilsworth in the year 1776, and six to Biddenham in 1787. On the 5th bell at Eversholt he claims the credit of casting "this peal," but is contradicted by the bells themselves, three of which were cast by Miles Graye about a century before Emerton was born. Like his predecessors, the Russells, he seldom used any inscription on his bells beyond his own name and those of churchwardens—the 5th bell at Eversholt, however, is an exception to his general rule. He, too, was partial to a display of coins, and on the 4th at Stanbridge, and on bells at Tilsworth, he shows the Pentacle.

The site of the Wootton foundry—of which there are now no indications—is now occupied by the "Star Inn," and the local tradition is that the last founder was ruined, and his foundry brought to a close, by the inability of the parish of S. John Baptist, Bedford, to pay for three bells which he cast for it, and which bells are said to have been "lying kicking about in the orchard" for some time afterwards. No record of the death of William Emerton has been found.

In addition to the permanent foundry worked at Wootton, there were certainly two, if not more, temporary ones set up in the county for short periods, a not uncommon occurrence in the days of bad roads, and when, consequently

movement of heavy weights like church bells was a difficult process.

On the fly-leaf of the oldest Register Book belonging to the parish of Hargrave, Northamptonshire, commencing in 1572, is the following entry :—

John Smith Clerke
January 13 anno 1599

the lytle bell was cast at bedford
this year 1599 by newēn
tho. browne Junior Ed. Aspyn Churchwardens
the same yeare

This Hargrave bell was evidently cast at a furnace set up at Bedford by *Edward Newcombe*, or by one of his three sons, who were, about that time, associated with him in the Leicester foundry.* One of the earlier Newcombes had already sent, as will be noticed hereafter, a bell (which is still hanging) to Carlton, but they did not, probably, set up their temporary foundry at Bedford until about the time they cast the Hargrave bell—1599. An examination of the other bells, twenty-eight in number, supplied by the Newcombes, and still hanging in Bedfordshire churches, shows that they range in date from 1602 at Blunham (2nd and 3rd), and Sandy (4th), to 1617 at Felmersham (2nd and 4th) and Goldington (3rd). Of these, nine, ranging in date from 1602 to 1607 (viz., Barton-le-Clay, 1st, 2nd and 3rd; Blunham, 2nd and 3rd; Elstow, 5th; Roxton, 2nd; Sandy, 4th, and Shillington, 3rd), bear the usual seventeenth century inscription of the Leicester Newcombes :—*

* See North's *Church Bells of Leicestershire*, p. 54.

+ BE · YT · KNOWNE · TO · ALL · THAT · DOTH · ME · SEE
THAT · NEWCOMBE · OF · LEICESTER · MADE · ME

preceded by their initial cross, fig. 1, here engraved, and were, most probably, supplied direct from the Leicester foundry. A second batch of ten, ranging in date from 1604 to 1613 (namely, Bedford, S. Mary 3rd, Cranfield 2nd and 3rd, Husborne Crawley 2nd and 6th, Milton Ernest 1st, 4th and 5th, Northill 5th, and Sharnbrook 4th) are inscribed, without any initial cross :—

1

NEWCOME OF LEICESTER MADE ME;

and the remaining nine bells, ranging in date from 1611 to 1617 (viz., Edworth 2nd, Felmersham 2nd and 4th, Houghton Regis 3rd, Husborne Crawley 4th, Keysoe 3rd, Pavenham 4th, and Tempsford 4th) are inscribed, without any initial cross, or any reference to Leicester :—

NEWCOME MADE ME.

Most probably the second series of Newcombe's bells were (as indicated by the absence of the usual initial cross and the change in the form of inscription and lettering) cast at Bedford, and the same may, with more certainty, be said of the third series, upon which the word Leicester no longer appears ; indeed, the latest dated bells of the Newcombes in Leicestershire are in the year 1612, about which time their foundry there was merged into, or eclipsed by, that of Hugh Watts.

We are indebted to the Account Books of Jesus College, Cambridge, for knowing that *Christopher Graye* (probably a

son of Miles Graye, a noted founder at Colchester, to whom reference will hereafter be made) set up his foundry for a short time at Ampthill, in this county. Amongst other charges in the College books in the year 1658-9 is—

> Paid to Christopher Gray of Ampthil in Bedfordshire
> Bellfounder for new casting of the Chappell Bell . . 06 15 00*

He was an itinerant, having, it seems, been casting bells in Staffordshire, and after his sojourn at Ampthill he went to Haddenham, where he resided for some fourteen or fifteen years.†

There are a dozen of his bells still remaining in this county; the earliest were cast in 1655, the latest (Ampthill 3rd) is dated 1665. He placed no further inscription upon any of them than the bare announcement—

CHRISTOPHER GRAYE MADE ME,

with, sometimes, a star of dots between each word.

From the large number of bells still hanging in Bedfordshire, cast between the years 1589 and 1639 by members of the Watts family, who had a considerable foundry at Leicester at that time, it might be inferred that they, like their neighbours, the Newcombes, had likewise a foundry somewhere in this county; but as there is, at present, no documentary evidence forthcoming to support that supposition, we must refer to their bells hereafter under a brief notice of the Leicester founders.

---

* Communicated by Mr. J. W. Clarke, M.A., Trin. Coll., to Dr. Raven. See *Church Bells of Cambridgeshire*, 2nd Ed., p. 202. † *Ibid*, p. 89.

OTHER FOUNDERS
OF
BEDFORDSHIRE BELLS.

LEAVING the Bells already enumerated as cast by Founders within the County of Bedford, we pass on to notice those cast by other founders, known and unknown, ancient and modern.

The ancient bells first claim attention, and then brief notes upon those of more recent date will follow.

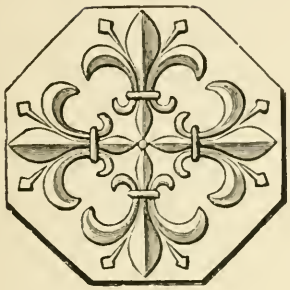
2

This elaborate and curious founder's stamp is found on the 2nd and the 3rd bells at Campton. It was long a puzzle to campanists; by some, from the figure of the bird and the letter P below the clapper of the bell, the founder's name was conjectured to be William Peacock; others thought that the name William Bird, or William Sparrow, was suggested by the words on the shield, In d'no co'fido, an allusion

being imagined to the continuation of the verse of the Psalm, "How say ye then to my soul that she should flee *as a bird* unto the hill." These guesses of the rebus, however, as Dr. Raven shows in his recently printed *Church Bells of Cambridgeshire*,* have been finally disposed of by Mr. A. Daniel-Tyssen, who, by the discovery of his will, has shown the name of the founder to be *William Culverden* ("Culver" being, as Dr. Raven points out, an old word for pigeon, probably corrupted from *Columba*), who was carrying on his business in 1510, in which year his name occurs in the parish accounts of S. Mary-at-Hill, London. In his will, which is dated the 29th September, 1522—shortly before his death—he describes himself as "William Culverden, citezen and brasier of London and parishioner of the parishe of Sanct. Botulph without Algate of London." He gives directions touching "all and singular my belmolds and implements w^t^ all other stuffe w^t^in the said house grounde and shedds necessarye and belonging to the crafte or science of Bellfounders or brasiers." His bells, though not numerous, are found in Kent, Middlesex, Hertfordshire, Suffolk, Dorset, Cambridgeshire, and, as we see, in this county. The inscriptions on the Campton bells are in small gothic letters, each word having a very bold gothic crowned capital; the 2nd bell is enriched, in addition to the founder's shield, with the pretty cross here engraved fig. 3, and the 3rd with the cross fig. 4 also here given. The cross fig. 3 is also on the 4th bell at Harlington, in

* 2nd Ed., pp. 42-46.

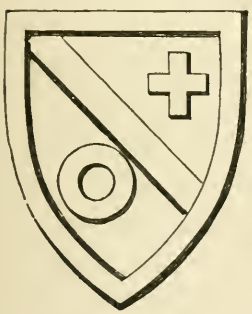
company with its neighbour fig. 4, a coin being impressed



3

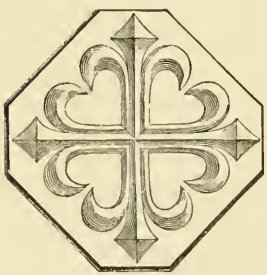
4

between them ; and the same two crosses (figs. 3 and 4) are upon the 4th bell at Staughton Parva, with the shield fig. 5 between them. Of this little cluster of bells it may be well to observe that, though the letterings of the Harlington and Staughton Parva bells are similar—clear black letter, with rather ornate and crowned capitals—they are quite distinct in character from that upon the bells bearing William Culverden's shield at Campton. The presence of the shield fig. 5 in company with stamps in the same hands as William Culverden's shield is rather unexpected. It is found on bells in Northamptonshire, Rutland, Cambridgeshire, and specially in Kent, and has, therefore, been supposed to have belonged originally to a founder in that locality. The letter stamps of these Kent bells—and so, perhaps, this shield—appear to have fallen into the hands of a founder whose initials, J.S., are upon bells in several counties. That was also the case with the



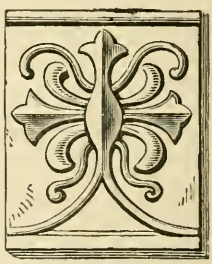
5

cross fig. 3, which is, with those initials, upon the 3rd bell at Tollington, Lincolnshire.* Such bells are supposed by Mr. Tyssen, for reasons given in his *Church Bells of Sussex*, to have been cast at Reading, and the presence of the initials upon some of them, leads to the inference that they were from the foundry of *John Saunders*, who was casting bells there from 1539 to 1559. Looking at the date of William Culverden's death (1523), is it not probable that he was the founder of some of the Kentish and other bells just referred to, and that, though he intended, as is shown by his will, that a Thomas Lawrence should succeed to his business, yet, for some reason not at present known to us, his stamps, or some



6

7



8

of them, passed into the hands of J. S., the presumed John Saunders of Reading? The last we know of the shield fig. 5 is that in 1604 it was in the hands of the founder who cast the 2nd bell at Kingsbury, Middlesex, in that year.

The shield with the Royal Arms fig. 7, is found on the

* It should also be noted that this cross occurs on a bell at South Ormsby, Lincolnshire, in company with a shield assigned by campanists to William ffounder, an earlier craftsman than Wm. Culverden.

three ancient bells at Hockliffe, and on the 2nd bell at Wilden; on the 1st and 2nd at Hockliffe and on the 2nd at Wilden it is accompanied by the initial cross fig. 6, and by the stamp fig. 8, and on the 3rd at Hockliffe by the cross fig. 6 only.

A similar shield, ensigned with a crown, fig. 9, is upon the 3rd bell at Tingrith, accompanied by the beautiful cross fig. 10, both here engraved, and by the stamp fig. 8 given above.

9

10

It has been well observed that the date of the foundry originally using these shields of the Royal Arms must have been subsequently to 1413, when Henry V. substituted these fleur-de-lys in the first and fourth quarters of his coat instead of the semée of fleur-de-lys; and Mr. J. W. Clark in his Paper upon the *Bells of King's College, Cambridge*, by extracts from the College books, and by his discovery of a

careful drawing of the inscriptions and stamps upon ancient bells formerly belonging to that College, goes far to prove—if he does not do so indisputably—that these shields of the Royal Arms were used as stamps by *Henry Jorden*, who was employed to cast the College bells in 1466, and for which he was paid £40.*

---

* See *Cambs. Antiq. Society's Communications*, No. xxi., p. 223, for Mr. Clark's valuable Paper and drawings of those inscriptions. Since writing the above, Mr. Stahlschmidt—a former Master of the Worshipful Company of Founders, London—has very politely sent me a copy of the will of "Henry Jorden Citizein and Fyshmonger of the citie of London," dated the 15th of October, 1468, and which he obtained from a copy preserved by the Fishmongers' Company, and collated with another copy enrolled at Guildhall. Henry Jorden by this will bequeathed his lands and tenements "in the lane called Billiter Llane in the pyshe of seynt Katheryn Crechurrche wtin Aldgate of London," also "all that mesuage and all the apptenns in the said pisshe of saynt Katheryne beside Crechurche of London upon the corn$_r$ of the said lane of Billiter lane of London," and "all my Tenements wt their apptenns in the pyshe of seynt Brigide in Fllete streete in the subberbes of London," unto "the wardyenes of the comynaltie of the mistery or crafte of ffyshmongrs of the said Citie of London," upon trust to devote the proceeds to various charitable uses, and to the payment of priests celebrating his obit annually in several churches. The testator appears to have so disposed of his real estate in consequence of his son, Henry Jorden, being "a monk p'fessed in the house of Horley in Barkshire."

Whether this Henry Jorden is the same man as the Bellfounder mentioned above is not certain, for, unfortunately, this will deals only with the real estate of the testator. It appears not to have been at all unusual at that time for men to make two wills—one for realty and one for personalty—and so, until the other will is found, we are wanting in the certain evidence which a description of the personal estate of the deceased would give as to his trade. Mr. Stahlschmidt's opinion is that the first-mentioned property gives the site of the foundry, the second that of the shop, and the third, perhaps, that of his dwelling-house; that though a fishmonger by craft, he was not one by trade, "the trade was most strictly confined to three special localities, and he had no property in any one of them." Further research may produce further proof of identification. Certainly the date of the will and the locality of the property—Billiter (Belzetter or Bellfounders') Lane—are in favour of the testator being the Bellfounder referred to in the text; also it may be noted that one of his executors was "William Chamberleyn Ffounder," and that he desires "a quarter of coles" to be given annually to "xxti of the poire households wtin the crafte of Ffounders dwellyng wtin the walles of the citie of London." The apparent anomaly of his leaving his property to be dealt with by the Company of Fishmongers, rather than by that of the Founders, may be explained by the fact that he was a member of the former, which was a rich and

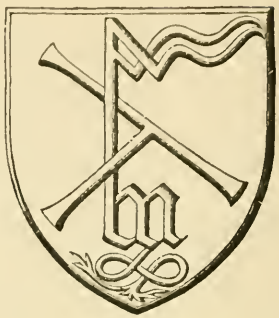
11

But in addition to the ancient bells in this county upon which the Royal Arms appear, there are others linked with them by bearing some of the other stamps which accompany those arms on the bells at Hockliffe and Wilden. Thus the cross fig. 6 is also on the 1st bell at Eyeworth, in company with the shield fig. 11, which bears a kind of merchant's mark, with I to the left and W beneath, and is so found in other places. Again the fine cross fig. 10, which is on the Tingrith bell in company with the Royal Arms, is also on the 3rd, 4th and 5th bells at Wymington, accompanied by the two shields, so well known to campanists, and engraved on the next page as figs. 12 and 13.

---

powerful body, the latter a comparatively poor and insignificant one; and it should also be noted that the Bellfounders of that time were not generally called "founders" (which craft confined their operations chiefly to the making of candlesticks, laver pots, etc., etc.), but were as often called "braziers" or "potters." There was in the fifteenth century a company of "bellmakers," so much we learn from a list of Guilds dated 1422—in the Records of the Brewers' Co.—but at present nothing more is known about it. There was, however, nothing anomalous in a Bellfounder being a brother of another and more important Guild, and making it the dispenser of his property for charitable and religious purposes. If it were proved that the Henry Jorden under notice was a fishmonger by craft and a bellfounder by trade, one would be tempted to assign to him—as suggested by Mr. Stahlschmidt—the curious stamp engraved on page 50 as fig. 12. The Patron Saint of the Fishmongers (in the fifteenth century there were two companies—the Stock Fishmongers and the Salt Fishmongers; it is of the latter we are now speaking) was S. Peter, and the arms of the Company were *azure* three cross-keys saltire wise, *or*, on which a chief *gules*, three dolphins naiant, *argent*. On this bell-stamp we have the cross-keys and a dolphin naiant, showing the owner's connection with the Fishmongers' Company, and in addition we have the bell and the laver pots, the recognised marks of the bellfounder and brazier.

12

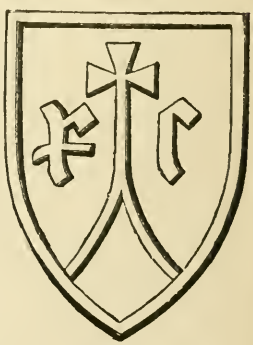


13

The inscriptions on all these bells at Hockliffe, Wilden, Tingrith, Eyeworth, and Wymington are (with the exception of the 5th bell at Wymington, where the only difference is the crowning of the capitals) from the same letter-stamps ; so, too, are the inscriptions on the 4th bell at Cople and the 5th at Willington, where, however, the initial cross in both cases is fig. 15, accompanied by the two shields figs. 14 and 16. This

14

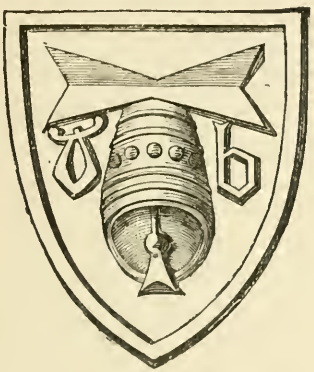
15



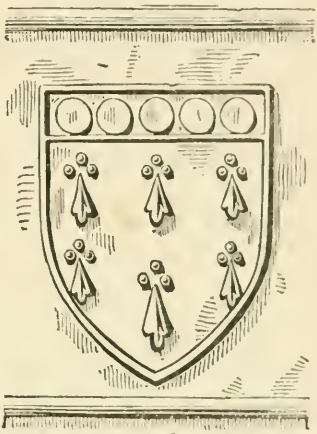
16

shield (fig. 14)—the Plantagenet Arms of England—which is

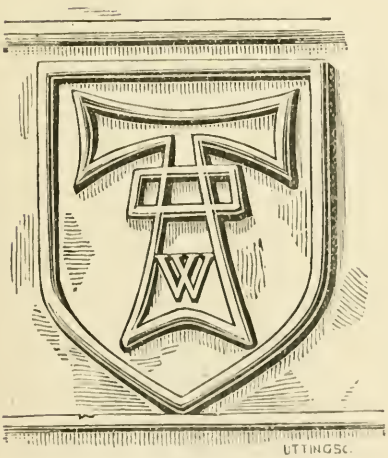
upon a bell at S. Clement's, Truro, with fig. 15,* is found on a curious bell at S. Mary's, Bedford (the 4th), which also bears, without any inscription, in addition to the impression of a coin which is unfortunately undecipherable, the four following stamps figs. 17, 18, 19 and 20.



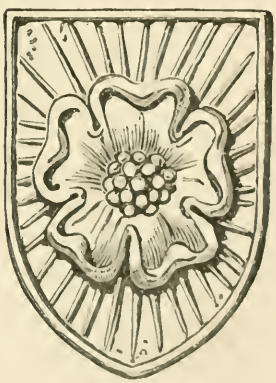
17



18



19

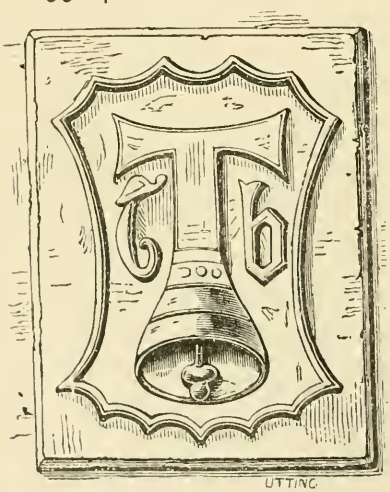


20

* *Church Bells of Gloucestershire*, p. 126.

It may, it is thought, be safely inferred from the use of the same letter-stamps on the bells just enumerated, and from the way in which the founder's stamps are linked together, that the latter (figs. 11 to 20 inclusive), engraved above, all belonged either to Henry Jorden himself, or to his immediate predecessors or successors in the same foundry.

Mr. Ellacombe tells us * that the stamp fig. 20—"the rose en soleil, the symbol of Edward IV."—was used by *Austin Bracker*, with "the arms of England, three Lions passant, gardant"; the same is stated in *The Church Bells of Norfolk*.† It would almost appear as if Henry Jorden was partial to these Royal Arms and symbols, and that a generation or two after his death some of his stamps fell into the hands of this Austin Bracker, who was living and casting bells in 1556.‡



21

Another form of the stamp, fig. 17 is upon the 1st bell at Northill, and is here engraved (fig. 21).

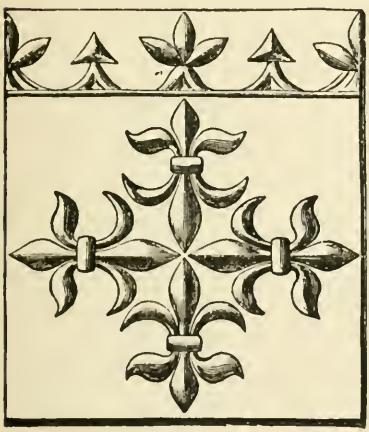
The only other instance at present known in which this stamp occurs is on the 3rd bell at Castle Ashby, Northamptonshire, where, as at Northill, there is no initial cross. It has been suggested that as these shields with the initials T.B. are found in various parts

* *Bells of the Church*, p. 322.

† p. 56. ‡ Dr. Raven's *Church Bells of Cambridgeshire*, 2nd Ed., p. 52.

of the country, they probably belonged to a London founder, and so, possibly, to a man named Bullisdon, whose name occurs as a London founder in 1510.* But may they not—looking at the Bedford bell—with equal probability, have belonged to another member of the family of Bracker?

A cluster of ancient bells from one and the same foundry—with inscriptions in rather thick and clumsy Gothic "smalls," with crowned capitals of inadequate size—are found in this county, at Carlton (4th), Chalgrave (1st), Maulden (1st), Millbrooke (1st), and Salford (3rd). These all bear the cross, fig. 22, and the stamp fig. 23 here engraved, and have also an



22

23

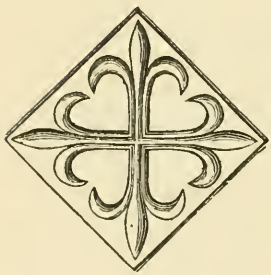
indistinct impression of a coin between the stamps; in addition to which, the Carlton, Maulden, and Salford bells have the founder's shield fig. 24. Bells with these stamps are found in

* Tyssen's *Church Bells of Sussex*, p. 15.

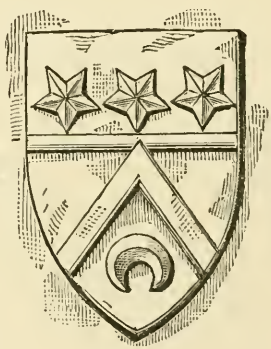
24

most of the counties of England, and are supposed by Mr. Tyssen, like those mentioned on p. 46, to have been cast at Reading, probably by John Saunders (1539-1559), into whose hands, perhaps, the R.L. shield descended from an earlier founder. This supposition is strengthened by finding his initials, J. S., upon several bells bearing these stamps; those initials do not, however, appear upon any bells in this county.

On the 3rd bell at Edworth we find the shield fig. 26



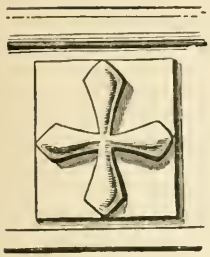
25



26

27

accompanied by the cross fig. 25 and the stamp fig. 27 all here engraved. This shield is found upon bells in Cambridgeshire with the cross fig. 25, and upon the 2nd and 3rd bells at Mumby, Lincolnshire.



28

The small initial cross, fig. 28, is upon the 4th bell at Kempston, the 2nd at Stotfold, and the 3rd at Warden, in each case preceding an inscription in equally small and neat Gothic capital letters. This cross, and the letters used with it, are found upon ancient bells in various counties; their date may, perhaps, be approximately arrived at by their being used upon a small bell now hanging in Lincolnshire, at Magdalen College School, Wainfleet, which school was founded in 1484, and very possibly the bell may have been cast and placed there at that time, although the form of letters used certainly claims an earlier origin.

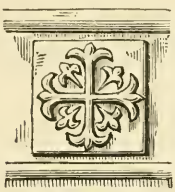
29

There are two *Ave Maria* bells bearing the same initial cross fig. 29: they are the single bell at Sundon, and the 5th at Thurleigh; the inscriptions are in plain and medium-sized Gothic capitals, in both cases from the same letter-stamps. The bell at Sundon has also, as an intervening stop, the "Royal Head" (fig. 30), usually assigned to Edward I. This and other "Royal Heads," well known to campanists, are found upon ancient and later bells in various localities, and frequently in connection with the initial crosses figs. 28 and 29. They were occasionally used by the later Leicester founders, and so late as 1742 they were

30

placed by Thomas Hedderly, of Nottingham, upon the 3rd bell at Chaddesden, Derbyshire.

There is an ancient bell at Chellington, with an inscription in Gothic "smalls" with initial capitals, of which, owing to the difficulty of access, complete rubbings have not been taken. At the close of the *Sancta Katerina Ora Pro Nobis* are the initials of the founder, read by one gentleman as J + D, but by Mr. Cary-Elwes, who is probably correct, as J + O.*

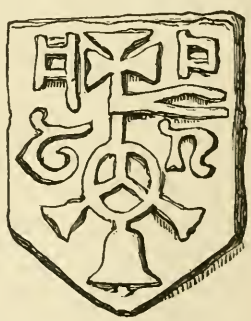


31

The inscription on the interesting Sanctus-bell at Dunstable is preceded by the initial cross fig. 31 here engraved. The Salutation is in Gothic capitals of a small size. If the tradition be true that Matilda, the daughter of Malcolm, King of Scotland, acted as God-mother at the benediction of this bell, it is the most ancient bell in the county, Malcolm III. (who had a daughter Matilda, wife of Henry I. of England) being King of Scotland in the latter half of the eleventh century.

The last of the ancient bell-stamps found in this county to

32



33

* See Dr. Raven's *Ch. Bells of Camb.*, 2nd Ed., p. 24, for a similar difficulty as to these initials.

which attention has to be directed, are those on the 3rd bell at Carlton, from the Leicester foundry, with the very unusual dedication S. MARTHE—they are here given as figs. 32 and 33, and they call for a brief notice of the Leicester founders, and of the many bells they supplied (especially in the seventeenth century), to the churches of this county.

John of Stafford was probably, for reasons given in *The Church Bells of Leicestershire*, a bellfounder in Leicester in the middle of the fourteenth century. The first recorded founder, however, was *William Millers*, who died in 1506; to him succeeded *Thomas Newcombe* (*ob.* 1520), who was succeeded by *Thomas Bett.* He was Mayor of Leicester in 1529, and died in 1538, when he was succeeded by his son-in-law, *Robert Newcombe*, who had three sons—Thomas, Robert, and Edward—who all became founders. *Thomas Newcombe*, his eldest son, used as a founder's mark the shield engraved above as fig. 33, bearing his initials (very probably also used by his predecessor of the same name), and as an initial cross the one also engraved above as fig. 32. To this Thomas Newcombe, who died in 1580-1, or more probably, from the style of the inscription, to the elder Thomas Newcombe, who died in 1520, may be assigned the 3rd bell at Carlton, to which reference has just been made. *Edward Newcombe*, the third son of Robert, had himself three sons connected with the foundry, and it was probably one of them, as the representative of his father, or on his own account, who had a foundry at Bedford in the year 1599, as already mentioned on page 40. The foundry there would appear to

have been at work for a short time after that date, for it has already been shown (p. 41) that the Newcombes supplied bells to Bedfordshire churches for a few years after they had, apparently, closed their foundry at Leicester, where it was absorbed, or eclipsed, by that of the famous Leicester founder, Hugh Watts.

Two of the Watts family were casting bells in the sixteenth century, respecting whom we have at present little, or no, documentary notice. "*Hew Watts*" placed his name upon the 1st bell at South Luffenham, Rutland, in 1563. I have made a long search for his Will, but without success. In the accounts of the churchwardens of S. Martin's, Leicester, for 1617-18, is a receipt :—

> Item for the bells for olde Mr. Watts &
> buryall in the church ..... xij*s*

This was not Francis Watts (to be mentioned presently), who died in 1600, but, possibly, his father, the above "Hew Watts." The Watts' foundry, or their house, being in the Gallowtree Gate, Leicester, they would be residents in S. Martin's parish. The name of *William Wates*, or *William Wattes*, appears upon the 8th bell at Clifton (where there are two others cast by him at the same time—1590) and upon the 5th at Harlington (where the 1st was also his handiwork), without a date. These are very fine bells, the inscriptions being in large ornate Gothic capitals, of which the letters

34

35

36

37

are here engraved as examples; the intervening stop between the words on all these five bells is fig. 38, and the founder's stamp at the end of the inscription on each is the shield fig. 39, both on the next page. To this founder may also be assigned the 2nd bell at Northill, dated 1589, and bearing the same stamps.

38

39

There is no proof at present that these two men were Leicester founders; indeed, it is more probable that William Watts had his foundry in Bedfordshire, but *Francis Watts* appears, with certainty, as such, in 1564, when he bought some bell-wheels from the church of St. Peter, Leicester, then being taken down. He very rarely placed his name upon his bells, the only instance at present known being a bell at Bingham, Nottinghamshire, which is inscribed in letters of various sizes, badly put together :—"Fraunces Wattes made me." He died in the year 1600, his will being proved in that year. To him may be assigned (but whether cast in Bedfordshire, where he may have continued the foundry upon the death of William, or at Leicester, cannot be determined) the 3rd bell at Fandish, dated 1597, and bearing the shield, fig. 39, and the 2nd at Thurleigh, dated 1593, which, in addition to the same shield, has the intervening stop (found on the Leicester bells elsewhere) here engraved, fig. 40. The letters

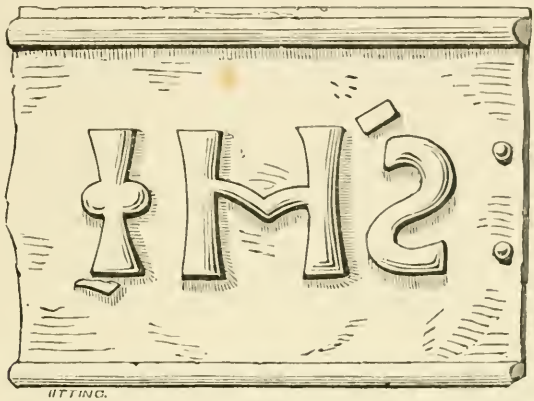
40

on these bells are the ornate capitals mentioned above as used by William Watts.

The letters and stamps used by these early members of the Watts family were previously used by the Brazyers, founders at Norwich; it is, therefore, highly probable that the immediate predecessor of one of them had been employed at Norwich, and leaving during the temporary closing of the foundry there upon the death of Richard Brazyer in 1513, found his way to Bedford or Leicester, bringing some of the old bell-gear with him, and opened a foundry there. Francis Watts was succeeded in the Leicester foundry by his son, *Hugh Watts*, who speedily obtained a high reputation as a founder. Upon the death of his father he placed his name upon a few bells, but quickly discontinued the practice, then becoming common with founders, of so doing. The 1st bell at Dean, and the 5th at Kempston, are inscribed "Hugh Wattes made me 1603." In addition to these two there are thirty-nine bells still hanging in Bedfordshire churches, which were supplied by Hugh Watts, and all bearing his stamp, fig. 39. The largeness of this number, the way in which they are grouped, and the style of lettering used in the inscriptions, all point to the probability of a large proportion of them being cast in this county. Finding no mention of William Watts after the appearance of his name upon the Clifton and Harlington bells (1590), it may be presumed that he died before, or about the time of the death of Francis Watts, the father of Hugh

(A.D. 1600), and that not only the Leicester, but the presumed Bedfordshire foundry, in consequence fell into the hands of the latter, who, as just stated, placed his name upon the bells at Dean and Kempston in the year in which his father died. It is curious to note the grouping of inscriptions on the bells he next cast for churches in this county. Willington 1st has the name of the donor; six bells (Campton 4th, Carlton 1st, Elstow 2nd, Harrold 3rd, Oakley 5th, and Ravensdale 3rd) are all inscribed, "Praise the Lord;" two bells (Goldington 1st, and Harrold 2nd), have the inscription "Come, Come, and Pray;" four others (Goldington 4th, Pavenham 2nd, Melchbourne 4th, and Northill 3rd) have loyal inscriptions. All these thirteen bells were cast in the year 1600-1603. There was then a pause in the casting of bells for Bedfordshire until the year 1609; in that and in the following year, 1610, Hugh Watts cast at least a dozen (Bedford S. Mary 6th, Bedford S. Peter 3rd, Blunham 4th, Dean 3rd, the whole ring of five at Marston Moretaine, Puddington 2nd, Wilden 3rd [?], and Yielden 4th), all having the alphabet, or portions of it, upon them in lieu of inscription. All these bells have their inscriptions in the ornate Gothic capitals figured above (p. 59), which we have seen were in the hands of William Watts and Francis Watts. Now, although those letters were occasionally used by Hugh Watts upon bells cast at his Leicester foundry, they appear but rarely, he having adopted a rather coarse Roman capital letter for use in his inscriptions, of which examples are here given, fig. 41. It would thus appear that the foundry, which it is presumed was worked by William, and, perhaps, by Francis Watts, in

Bedfordshire, was carried on by Hugh, their successor, until the close of the year 1610, he using the bell-gear and the letter-stamps which were in the hands of his deceased relatives.



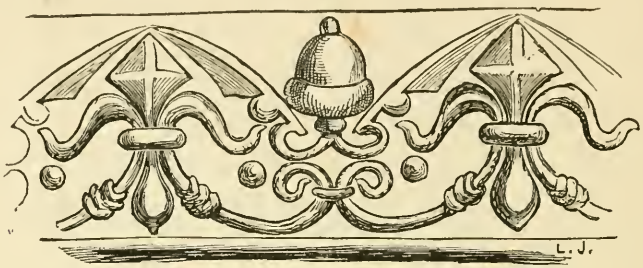
41

It would further appear that, having finished his casting of the group of alphabet bells in 1610, he closed his furnaces in this county, for no more bells are found of his casting until twenty-three years afterwards, that is, until the year 1633, when he again appears in the bell-chambers of Bedfordshire, sending between that year and 1639 fourteen bells, namely :—the ring of five at Great Barford, the 1st at Felmersham, the 1st and 2nd at Kempston, the 3rd at Shelton, the 5th at Wilden, the 5th at Odell, the 3rd at Oakley, and the 1st and 2nd at Riseley. Of these, five have his favourite inscription :—

IH'S : NAZARENVS : REX JVDEORUM : FILI DEI :
MISERERE MEI

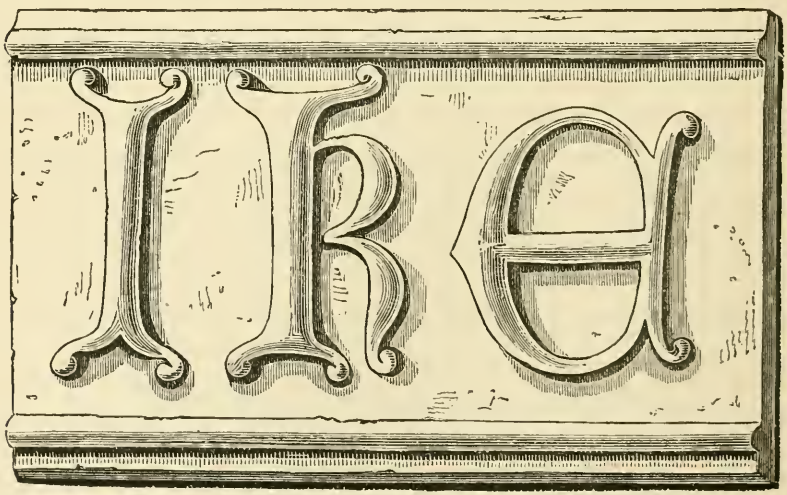
which he used so often—there are ninety in Leicestershire—as to cause his bells to be known as "Watts' Nazarenes." The letters IH'S engraved above are the first three letters of

that, his well-known inscription, the letter S being always reversed, as shown. He and his predecessors generally extended the inscription round the bell, filling up the spaces between the words with the ornamental acorn band, fig. 42 :—



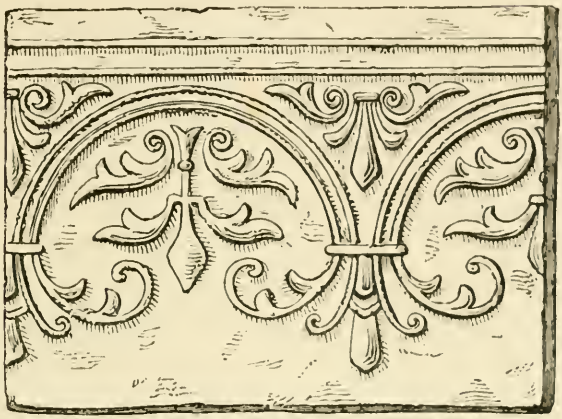
42

He also very rarely—as on bells at S. Margaret's Church, Leicester—used another form of Gothic letter, a specimen word of which may be given (fig. 43), although it does not



43

appear on any bell in Bedfordshire, and with it he used the elegant border ornament, fig. 44 :—



44

Hugh Watts died in 1643, when portions of his bell-gear fell into the hands of the Nottingham founders, but his stamp, fig. 39, and band ornaments never appear after his death. The Leicester foundry was then closed, to be re-opened at the commencement of the eighteenth century by *Thomas Clay*, who, however, sent no bells to this county. Upon the closing of his business, there was another interval until *Edward Arnold*, the nephew of Joseph Eayre, the bellfounder of S. Neots, cast his first ring of bells in Leicester in the year 1784, for Rothley church, Leicestershire, as he tells us upon one of the bells there. He sent no bell to this county from Leicester, but upon the 1st and 2nd at Cardington he describes himself as of S. Neots and Leicester, although he had not at that time commenced business at the latter place. These and other inscriptions show that during part of the time he carried on

the Leicester foundry, Edward Arnold continued his business at S. Neots, into which he received, as an apprentice, *Robert Taylor*, who towards the close of the eighteenth century succeeded to the foundry there, which at that time was carried on in a lofty brick building situate in the Priory, and built in the form of a bell. Robert Taylor sent the whole ring of five bells to Bletsoe in 1786, and between that year and 1816 he sent many other bells to churches in the county, upon all of which he placed his name. Upon the 3rd bell at Risely (dated 1816) he, doubtless for some exceptional reason, joined J. Briant's name with his own as founder. About that time the firm became *R. Taylor & Sons.* They sent bells to Husborne Crawley and Wrestlingworth in 1820. In the year 1821 the Messrs. Taylor removed to Oxford, from whence they sent the 2nd bell at Bromham in 1826. In 1825 *Mr. John Taylor*, one of the Oxford firm, went to Buckland Brewer, near Bideford, Devon, to cast the bells there, and after casting several rings and odd bells in Devon, Cornwall, etc., returned to Oxford in 1835. In 1839 he and his son went to Loughborough, in Leicestershire, to cast the bells there, and finding the town well-situated for business, they took up their residence in that place. From thence they, in the same year, sent the 5th bell to Turvey, describing themselves as *W. & J. Taylor, Oxford and Loughborough.* Although William Taylor (the brother of John) continued to work the Oxford foundry until his death, which occurred in 1854, his name does not again appear upon bells cast at Loughborough. The foundry there was carried on by *John Taylor*, who describes himself upon the 1st bell at Puddington, dated 1843,

as of "Oxford and Loughborough," and upon the Wymington 1st, cast in that same year, as "late of S. Neots." Since that time Mr. John Taylor has died, leaving his son, the present *Mr. John William Taylor*, the head of the now justly celebrated Leicestershire foundry. *Messrs. John Taylor & Co.* have supplied several bells to Bedfordshire churches, but as their names appear upon them a list in detail is rendered unnecessary.*

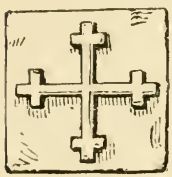
Returning to the older bells in Bedfordshire, we find ten cast by *John Dier*, about whom little is at present known. His bells in this county date from 1580, at Houghton Regis (5th), to 1593, the date on bells at Houghton and at Maulden. His earliest bell bears his name "John dier," in thick black letter; on the more elaborate bells at Hulcote, with the donor's arms, he appears in the same type of letters as "Johannes Dier," the last two letters being linked together on one stem; but on the Willington 4th he discarded the old black letter, and appeared in sharply defined Roman capitals as "John Dyey," with the whole inscription placed backwards. He used the Pentacle as a trade-mark, and upon the Hulcote bells he placed a number of small fanciful stamps.

The name of *John Clarke* is, as founder, upon the 2nd bell at Flitwick, dated 1608. He, too, used the Pentacle in place of the ancient initial cross. His bells are rare. There is a similarity between his lettering and that of John Dier, but at present three is no proof of any connection between them.

About this time, too, we find *Richard Holdfeld*, or *Oldfield*, sending two bells into this county—the 1st at Shelton,

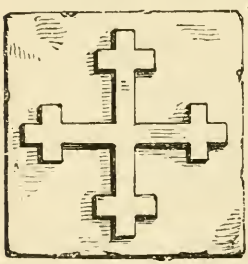
* For a full account of the ancient Leicester Bellfounders, with copies of their Wills, etc., see North's *Church Bells of Leicestershire*, pp. 37-74.

inscribed "Praies God," and the 3rd at Studham, inscribed "Pries the Lord;" they are both dated 1599. They bear no founder's name, but the letters of the inscriptions on both—small Roman capitals—and the initial cross on the Studham bell, here engraved, fig. 45, are identical with those on the 3rd bell at Everton, Huntingdonshire, inscribed in part "Ricardvs Holdfeld me fecit 1611." Dr. Raven suggests (for reasons given in his *Church Bells of Cambridgeshire**) that Richard Holdfeld was a Cambridge founder. There is also every reason for assuming that he was a member of the family of Oldfield, of Nottingham, founders there for several generations. On the 3rd bell at East Bergholt, Suffolk, and upon some bells in Essex, cast by Richard Bowler early in the seventeenth century, there is a circular stamp bearing the initials R.H., divided by an arrow, which points to some connection between Richard Holdfeld and the founder of those bells.



45

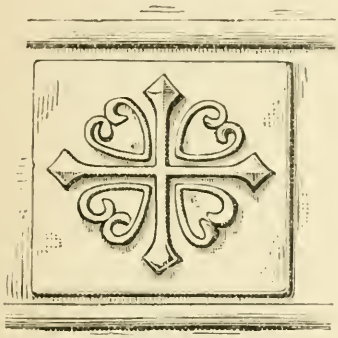
Richard Haulsey cast the 2nd bell at Dunton, and the 1st at Edworth; they are both dated 1623. The inscriptions are in Roman capitals of the same character as those used by Richard Holdfeld, and preceded by an initial cross of the same form (fig. 46), but both letters and cross are larger in size. It is probable that Haulsey succeeded to the foundry of Richard Holdfeld.



46

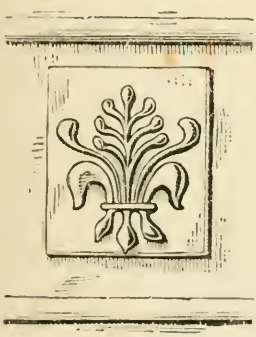
* 2nd Ed., p. 131.

Robert Oldfield, too, was casting bells at that time. He cast the 3rd bell at Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire, and placed his name upon it, in 1605. To him may be assigned the 4th bell at Eaton Socon, with a pre-Reformation inscription in Gothic capitals, preceded by the cross, fig. 47,



47

48



49

with fig. 49, for an intervening stop. In 1638 he supplied the present treble bell to Shillington, which has fig. 47 for an initial stamp, and under it the founder's stamp fig. 48, all here engraved. The fortunate preservation of the Shillington Churchwardens' Accounts for the year in which this bell was cast enables us to assign these stamps with certainty to

Robert Oldfield, and to state that he was then working his foundry at Hertford. The Churchwardens charge :—

1638	Ite' spent at Hartf' when we went wth the Bell	o	8	8
	Ite' to John Crouch for drawing our bell to Hartford	o	13	o
	Ite' to Robert Oldfeild for casting our bell at eleaven shillinge the hundred	4	10	6

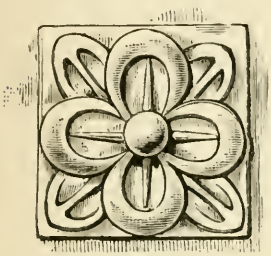
The only other bell from Robert Oldfield's Hertford foundry now in this county is the Priests' bell at Luton, which has no inscription, but only the date 1637 immediately over the shield-shaped stamp fig. 48 on page 69. Robert Oldfield was doubtless connected with the Nottingham founders of the same name. The initial cross he used, fig. 47, is similar in form to those constantly used by them.

At a later date a foundry was worked at Hertford by *John Briant*, who sent several bells to the churches of this county, dated from 1790 at Eaton Bray (5th) to 1816 at Meppershall (3rd). He died at S. Albans in the year 1829, being then in his 81st year, and was buried in All Saints' Churchyard, Hertford.*

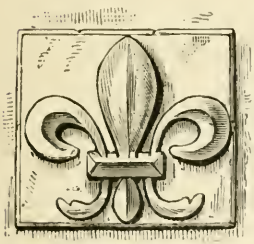
There are a large number of bells—nearly fifty—supplied to Bedfordshire churches from the foundry formerly existing at Drayton Parslow, in Buckinghamshire. "Anthonie Chandler Blacksmith," who was buried at that place on "Aprill the 20, 1641," had by his wife, who was buried there in 1643, two sons, Richard, baptized there on the 6th of March, 1601-2, and Anthony, who died an infant in 1605. *Richard Chandler*

* For a fuller account of him, see North's *Church Bells of Northamptonshire*, pp. 102-4.

married Bridget Conoper in 1622, and was the first bellfounder at Drayton, sending the present 2nd bell to Milton Bryant in 1636. He placed his name on that bell as "Richard Chandeler," with the date both before and after it, and the two stamps here engraved as figs. 50 and 51. He was buried at Drayton on the 13th of June, 1638. He had by his wife Bridget one son, Anthony, and five daughters, two of whom, says the Register, "Bridgetta Chanler et Maria Chanler filiæ posthumæ Richardi et Bridgettæ bapt: fuerant secundi die Aug^{t}. 1638." *Anthony Chandler* (the only son of this Richard), who was baptized on the 20th of August, 1622, carried on the foundry on the death of his father (probably during his youth with the assistance of a foreman) sending a few bells to churches in his own and neighbouring counties. He sometimes placed his name in full, as at Egginton (2nd), Houghton Regis (6th), and Westoning (1st), and sometimes only "Chandler made me:" and very rarely—as on the 5th bell at Harrold—the fleur-de-lys, fig. 51, given above. He was buried either on the 23rd of January, 1680-1, or on the 10th of January, 1684-5 (for there were two men of the name living at the same time at Drayton), leaving a numerous family—four sons—Richard, baptized 15th December, 1650; George, baptized 3rd March, 1654; Thomas, baptized 30th November, 1656, and John, baptized 10th July, 1664—and four daughters,



50



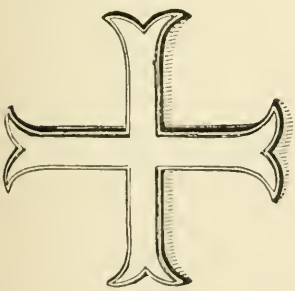
51

Ann, Jane, Bridget, and Leah. The two elder sons, *Richard* and *George*, appear to have succeeded to the business of the foundry, most probably as partners, though their joint names have not yet been found on any single bell. The name of *George Chandler* appears as founder upon the 3rd bell at Eaton Bray, dated 1705, and upon the 5th at Stanbridge, dated 1725, soon after which he died; but the Parish Registers do not give the entry of his burial. *Richard Chandler* died on one of the last days of the year 1704, being buried (the Register describes him as "Bellfounder") on the 1st of January, 1704-5. He sent several bells into Bedfordshire, some having his name, and some only his initials. Upon his death another *Richard Chandler*, most probably his son—though here the Registers do not help us—placed his name upon bells. He was the "Richard Chaundler, bellfounder," whose son Henry (according to the Register) was baptized on the 28th of April, 1702, and whose daughter Susan was buried on the 28th of February, 1703-4. The latest date we find upon Richard Chandler's bells in this county is 1723, upon the 4th bell at Hulcote. The date of his death is at present unknown. The Chandlers were succeeded at Drayton Parslow as bellfounders by *Edward Hall*, who sent only four bells to this county, Eaton Bray 1st, dated 1740, Pottesgrove 1st, dated 1743, and Whipsnade, 1st and 2nd, dated 1740. He was not successful with his foundry, and the addition to it of the original business of the Chandlers—that of a blacksmith—does not appear to have added much to the security of his position, for the Parish Register records his burial thus:—

9 February, 1755, Edward Hall, *poor bellfounder.*

The site of the foundry at Drayton Parslow is now used as a garden and paddock behind the "Three Horse-Shoes" Inn: scraps of bell-metal, and other indications of the foundry work, have been found.*

Another foundry in Buckinghamshire supplied the 1st and the 3rd bells at Chellington. *Bartholomew Atton*, "Tann' and Bellfounder, the apprentice of Thomas Newcome, Tann' and Bellfounder," then deceased, was admitted to the Merchants' Guild, or made free of the town of Leicester, in 1582-3. Shortly after that date he was casting bells at Buckingham, of which town he was bailiff in 1604.† He sent several bells into Northamptonshire, and showed his connection with the Leicester founders by using some of their stamps.‡ Upon many of his bells are also placed the initials of *Robert Atton*, who was associated with him in the foundry. The dates of the deaths of these two founders are not at present known, but Bartholomew cast bells as late as 1636, and Robert as late as 1634.§



52

Upon the 3rd bell at Chellington *William Atton* appears as founder, with the name of this Robert Atton appended. In 1654, when the treble bell there was cast, William Atton had a son associated with him, the founders' names being given as "W. Atton and Son:" soon after that date he died, for the

* For numerous extracts (about sixty in number) from the Parish Registers of Drayton Parslow relating to the Chandler family I am much indebted to the courtesy of the present Rector, the Rev. A. Cyril Pearson.

† Lipscomb's *Hist. of Bucks.*, vol. ii., p. 567.

‡ See North's *Church Bells of Northants*, p. 114.

§ *Ibid.* pp. 114, 115.

Buckingham Register says "Mr. William Atton four times Bailiff [buried] Oct. 23, 1655."* The Attons used as an initial cross fig. 52 engraved on p. 73 : it appears upon the 3rd of the Chellington bells.

There are a score of bells in Bedfordshire churches which were, as their inscriptions testify, cast by *Miles Graye*. They range in date from 1615 at Stotfold (3rd) to 1667 at Fandish (1st). Miles Graye was a founder of considerable reputation at Colchester. The inscription on the tenor bell at Kersey, Suffolk, says :—

> Samuel Samson, Churchwarden, I saye,
> Caused me to be made by Colchester Graye.

Although no founder of his period, according to Dr. Raven, "was equal to 'Colchester Graye,'" not much is at present known about him beyond what his bells themselves tell. He is said to have died in 1666.† It is generally supposed that Christopher Graye, whose bells in this county have been already mentioned (see p. 41) was his son.

During the time Miles Graye was casting bells at Colchester *James Keene* was actively employed in the same way at Woodstock in Oxfordshire. There are twenty-three of his bells in this county, dating from 1618 at Odell and Puddington to 1641 at Milton Bryant and Wootton.

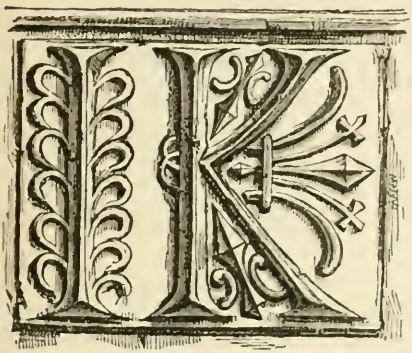
GOD SAVE *OVR* KING

was his favourite motto : it appears on fourteen of those bells. On the Chellington 2nd and on the Colmworth 4th he placed "Pray.e ye the Lord," omitting, apparently, the letter *s* in the

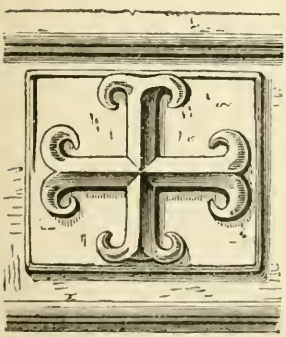
* Willis' *Hist. of Bucks.*, p. 72.

† But the Fandish bell is dated in the following year (1667).

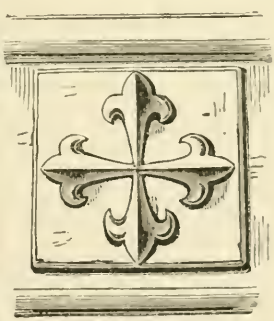
first word: the 3rd at Stanbridge has the name of the churchwarden, and on the 2nd at Fandish, the 1st at Milton Bryant, the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd at Odell, and the 1st at Salford, the initials I. K. are given with the date. These initials, which are also on many of his other bells —for James Keene did not give his name in full—are generally in the form given as fig. 53, using frequently as initial crosses the figs. 54, 55 and 56. The



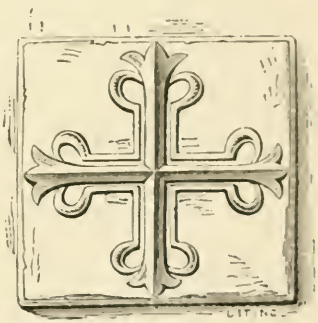
53



54



55



56

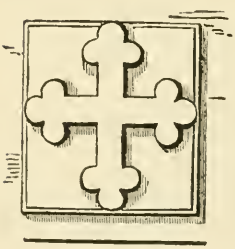
initial cross fig 54 is upon bells at Chalgrave (2nd), Clophill (2nd), Hawnes (1st), Odell (4th), Pavenham (5th), and Puddington (3rd and 4th). That figured No. 55 is on bells at Colmworth (3rd), Cople (5th), Flitwick (4th), Henlow (2nd), Milton Bryant (3rd), Salford (1st), and Studham (4th), and that figured

57

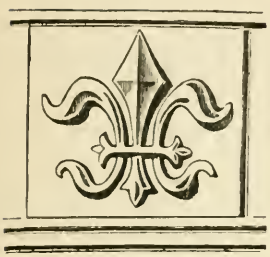
No. 56 is found on bells at Chellington (2nd), Colmworth (4th), Milton Bryant (1st), Stanbridge (3rd), and at Wootton (5th). James Keene also rarely used as a stop fig. 57 here engraved : it is only found once in Bedfordshire—on the 3rd bell at Odell ; and much more frequently the fleur-de-lys, fig. 58, which is found on ten of his bells in this county.

58

Amongst the other seventeenth century bells are five from the Stamford foundry. *Tobias* or *Tobie Norris*, Bellfounder, took up his freedom at Stamford on the 4th of June, 1607, consequently the 1st and 2nd bells at Clapham, dated in that year, and upon which he placed the initial cross fig. 59, and the stop fig. 60, were amongst his first efforts. He was also the founder of the 4th and 5th bells at Shillington, dated 1624, upon the latter of which he also placed the initial cross fig. 59. It appears from the accounts of the churchwardens of Shillington that these two bells were cast at St. Ives, where Norris had probably set up a temporary foundry. He died on the 2nd of November, 1626, and was succeeded in the foundry by *Thomas Norris*, who took up his freedom of Stamford, as a bell-founder, on the 31st of December, 1625.



59



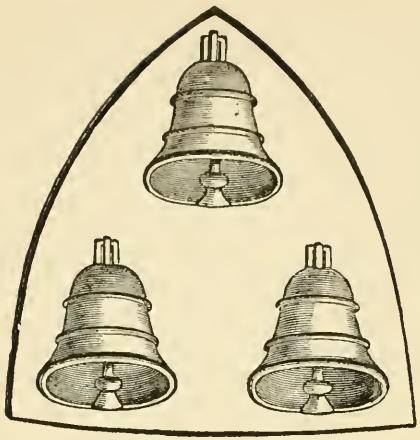
60

He sent no bells now remaining in this county, but his son and successor, *Tobias Norris* (2nd), who was baptized at S. George's Church, Stamford, on the 25th of April, 1634, and was buried in the same parish on the 19th of January, 1698-9, sent the 2nd bell to Dean in 1677, placing upon it his name preceded by the initial cross fig. 59.*

Bryan Eldridge, of Chertsey, sent only one bell to Bedfordshire—the 2nd at Yielden, dated 1660.

During the greater part of the seventeenth, and the earlier years of the eighteenth centuries, foundries were worked at Chacombe and at Ecton, Northamptonshire, by the family of Bagley. *Henry Bagley*, the first bell-founder at Chacombe (baptized 2nd Oct. 1608, died about 1676), sent no bells to Bedfordshire: upon his death the business appears to have been carried on by his two sons, *Henry* (not mentioned in the Parish Register) and *William* (born 29 June, 1663), in conjunction with his nephew *Matthew* (baptized 6 April, 1653). Although their names do not appear jointly in any known instance upon the same bell, Henry and Matthew frequently each placed his name upon separate bells in the same ring, and cast at the same time. Their bells are not numerous in this county, being the 5th at Stagsden, the 1st at Tilbrook, and the 2nd and 3rd at Turvey. Tilbrook is on the borders of Northamptonshire, but the Bagleys probably owed their

* For a full account of the Stamford Foundry, see North's *Church Bells of Northants*, pp. 95-102, and his *Church Bells of Lincolnshire*, pp. 51-58.



61

62

introduction to the other places to the Rev. Thomas Montague, Rector of Burton, Northamptonshire, the donor of a bell to Sharnbrook in 1683. The Bagleys occasionally used the stamp fig. 61, and the intervening stop fig. 62, which is on the 5th bell at Stagsden.

On the 2nd bell at Willington is, in bold thin-faced Roman capitals, *Thomas Tompion Fecit* 1671. Of him nothing is at present known.

Thomas Janaway, of Chelsea, sent the 4th bell to Potton in 1785. Mr. Tyssen tells us that he probably learned his art in the Whitechapel (London) foundry, that the Chelsea foundry only lasted from 1763 to 1786, and that at its close all its stamps and tools were bought and transferred to Whitechapel, and there used for many years.*

Thomas Newman, whose name appears as founder upon the 5th bell at Eaton Socon, cast in 1705, and upon the 1st at Potton, cast in the following year, was of Norwich, but he itinerated, and it is quite probable that those bells were sent by him from Cambridge, where it is known he was casting bells a few years later.†

---

* *Sussex Coll.*, xvi., p. 179.

† See Dr. Raven's *Church Bells of Cambridgeshire*, 2nd Ed., p. 98.

In 1717, *Thomas and John Eayre*, the first bellfounders at Kettering, Northamptonshire, supplied the treble bell at Yielden; upon the death or retirement of John Eayre in, or about, the following year, the foundry there passed into the sole management of *Thomas Eayre*, who did a large business. He, however, only sent three bells into Bedfordshire :—the 1st and 5th at Ampthill in 1725, and the 1st at Oakley in 1750. He was buried at Kettering on the 3rd of January, 1758, after which the foundry there was carried on for a few years by his son and sole executor, *Thomas Eayre* (2nd), who being unfortunate in business, brought it to a close in 1761.*

Joseph Eayre (the brother of the first-named Thomas Eayre, of Kettering), who was baptized as "an adult person" at Kettering, in the year 1731, and whose marriage in the Kettering Register is thus noted :—

Mr. Joseph Eayre of S. Neots and Mrs. Sarah Soame of Kettering,

opened a foundry at S. Neots about the year 1735, in which year he sent a ring of bells to Chatteris, Cambridgeshire. He sent six bells into this county, dating from 1740, at Eaton Socon (1st), to 1772 at Langford (3rd). After his death the business at S. Neots was held jointly for a short time by his late foreman, *Thomas Osborn*, and his cousin, *Edward Arnold*. After they dissolved partnership, *Edward Arnold* held the foundry at S. Neots, sending bells from thence to Keysœ (5th) in 1772, and to Langford (2nd) in 1780. In 1784 he opened his foundry at Leicester (see p. 65), still, however, keeping on the S. Neots foundry for a time.

---

* See North's *Church Bells of Northants*, pp. 48-51, for a full account of their foundry.

Thomas Osborn, after dissolving partnership with Edward Arnold, set up for himself at Downham Market, where he subsequently took *William Dobson*, his grandson, into partnership. Upon the death of his grandfather, this William Dobson carried on the foundry, sending the 3rd bell at Eaton Socon in 1832. Although he had a large connection, he was not prosperous in business. In 1833 his foundry passed into the hands of Mr. Thomas Mears, of London.

The modern Birmingham founders are represented by two bells. *Mr. James Barwell* supplied the 1st at Stevington in 1872, and *Messrs. Wm. Blews & Sons* the 1st at Wymington in the following year.

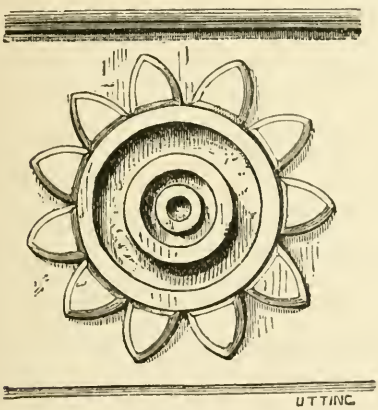
In writing of the bells in this county cast by the Newcombe's of Leicester and Bedford (see pp. 57-8), the 4th bell at Elstow, traditionally known as Bunyan's bell, escaped notice as being probably from their foundry. It bears for an initial cross, fig. 63, which cross is not only found on bells in Leicestershire and Northamptonshire, but on the 2nd bell at Upton Magna, Salop, dated 1605, where it appears in company with a border ornament used by the Newcombes, and preceding a form of inscription, "Come Come and Pray," found on the bells of the Leicester founders.

63

The only other founders who sent bells into this county are those of London from the seventeenth century to the present time. As their bells are nearly one hundred and twenty in number, and as the name of the founder of each appears upon it, and so will be pointed out in the proper place under the

parish in which it hangs, it is unnecessary to give a detailed list of them here.

John Hodson—the first London founder of the modern era whose bells are in Bedfordshire—and *Christopher Hodson* were the principal founders of their time, a time not encouraging to men of their craft. In 1653 John Hodson supplied the 4th bell at Harrold; in the following year he sent four bells to Stevington; and in 1663 he cast the 3rd at Pavenham and the 1st at Cranfield. On the last-mentioned bell he placed, as intervening stops, a fleur-de-lys and fig. 64, here engraved, with the royal arms after the inscription. He used large plain Roman capitals for his inscriptions, with fleur-de-lys, the fig. 64, coins of Charles I. and the Commonwealth, stars of dots, and lozenges plentifully, as intervening stops. The initials W. H. observed on his bells at Cranford, Pavenham, and on two at Stevington, are those of *William Hull*, who was his foreman, and to whom he apparently taught his trade. William Hull not only placed his initials upon many of John Hodson's bells, but sometimes his name appears in full in conjunction with that of his master, and on the 1st at Pertenhall we have "William Hvll made me 1666" standing alone, although it was clearly his master's bell. After leaving John Hodson he was employed by



64

Michael Darbie, until he set up for himself at South Malling, Sussex, where he died in the year 1687.*

The Whitechapel (London) bellfoundry is of ancient date; there was a foundry there as early as, if not earlier than, the year 1520. Later on we find that *Robert Mot*, who was buried on the 1st of April, 1608, worked the foundry there until his death. *Joseph Carter* succeeded him, who, dying early in the year 1610, left the management of the London foundry to the care of his son *William Carter*, who only lived a few years after his father's death. To him succeeded (in 1619) *Thomas Bartlett*, who had been a servant in the foundry, and in the family of the Bartletts the Whitechapel foundry remained until the end of the seventeenth century. The only bell sent into this county by the Bartletts is the clock-bell at Battlesden House, dated 1674. That bell has the name of *Anthony Bartlett* as founder, and also the circular stamp, bearing three bells encircled with the words "Thomas Bartlett," which had been used by the first founder of that name. Anthony Bartlett, who died in 1676, was succeeded by his son, *James Bartlett*, who died in 1701. *Richard Phelp*, who cast several noted bells, was the next founder at Whitechapel; he died in 1738, when he was succeeded, as founder, by his foreman, *Thomas Lester*, whose name appears on six bells at S. Paul's, Bedford, cast in 1744. He soon took *Thomas Pack* into partnership, and the names *Lester & Pack* are upon the single bell at Lower Gravenhurst, dated 1758. Upon the death of Lester in 1769, his nephew, *William*

* For a full account of Wm. Hull, see Mr. Tyssen's *Church Bells of Sussex*, pp. 26-29.

Chapman, became Pack's partner, and the new firm, *Pack & Chapman*, sent bells to Cardington, Dunstable, and Luton from 1772 to 1776. The firm next appears in this county as *Chapman & Mears*—Pack died in 1781, and *William Mears*, who had learned his business under Chapman, and had been casting bells on his own account, was then taken into partnership by him—upon bells at Caddington cast in 1782. William Chapman died in 1784, when William Mears was alone for a short time only, for in 1787 we find *W. & T. Mears* describing themselves on bells at Leighton Buzzard as "late Lester, Pack, & Chapman." The foundry remained in the Mears family—many of their bells will be found hereafter described under the different parishes—until about the year 1865, soon after which it passed into the hands of the present proprietor, *Mr. Robert Stainbank*, who, however, retains the name of Mears in the firm (Mr. George Mears, his former partner, after being out of business some years, died at Landport, Portsmouth, on the 12th of August, 1873, aged 53 years), and he, under the style of *Mears & Stainbank*, has sent many bells to the churches of this county.*

The name of *Islip Edmunds, London*, appears upon the 1st bell at Melchbourne as the founder in 1764, and upon the 3rd at Milton Ernest in 1765. Of him little is known. *Messrs.*

---

* Mr. Tyssen in his *Church Bells of Sussex*, gives much information about the Whitechapel foundry. Since writing the above, Mr. Stainbank (who was born at Nottingham about the year 1815) has died. Before entering into partnership with the late Mr. Mears, he was in business as a timber merchant. He died at his residence, Spring Lodge, Lawrie Park, Sydenham, on the morning of Wednesday, the 24th of January, 1883, and was buried on the following Monday, at Boston, Lincolnshire, where his father, mother, and other members of his family are interred.

John Warner & Sons, of the well-known Crescent Foundry, Cripplegate, London, have sent bells to Bedfordshire, including a full ring of six to Arlesey in 1877.*

---

* For a fuller account of this foundry, see North's *Church Bells of Northamptonshire*, pp. 119, 120.

From an Illuminated MS. of the Psalms (fourteenth century) in the King's Library, British Museum: marked 20. *B. xi.*

PECULIAR USES

OF THE

BEDFORDSHIRE BELLS.

THERE are very few directions in the Rubrics and Canons of the Church of England as to the use of the Church Bell.

The single one in the Rubrics is that in which the Curate is ordered to "cause a bell to be tolled" to daily service "a convenient time before he begin, that the people may come to hear God's word and to pray with him." The directions in the Canons are also very brief: the 15th, which directs "Litany to be read on Wednesdays and Fridays," orders that warning be "given to the people by tolling of a bell," and the 67th orders:—

> And, when any is passing out of this life, a bell shall be tolled, and the Minister shall not then slack to do his last duty. And after the party's death, if it so fall out, there shall be rung no more than one short peal, and one other before the burial, and one other after the burial.

No further directions are given as to the use of church bells, and the only other references to them are in the 88th Canon against the superstitious use of bells upon "Holy days or Eves abrogated by the Book of Common

Prayer, nor at any other times without good cause, to be allowed by the minister of the place" and by the church-wardens, and in the 111th against hindering the minister or preacher "by untimely ringing of bells."

It was, no doubt, the superstitious use, and the "untimely" ringing of the bells in mediæval times, which caused the Church at the Reformation, not only to put a check upon their excessive ringing, but to order only the most simple and necessary use of them. It will be observed that one bell is all that is really essential in carrying out the directions of the Church, so that the poorest parish can have no difficulty in obeying. But it by no means follows that what is sometimes, but not always correctly, spoken of as "Apostolical simplicity" is intended, either in this or in other matters connected with the services of the Church, to be inculcated when better things can be obtained; indeed, we know that it is generally only poverty, or some other difficulty, which hinders the erection in our modern churches of a number of bells with which to ring those peals in which almost all English Churchmen delight. And so it was in more ancient times: the larger parish churches sometimes had five bells, many four, more perhaps only three, but it was a very rare thing indeed to find any church with less than two and a sanctus bell.

In pre-Reformation times, as I have shown elsewhere, the bells were heard much more frequently than now. Where the Canonical Hours were kept they would be ringing very frequently and very regularly, by day and by night, so that they answered very much the purpose of a clock, and the different ways in which they were rung told the service then about being

said. The bells were then frequently rung by the deacons. Such, we know, was the case in the fifteenth century at Holy Trinity, Coventry, and in the following century at Ludlow and at Exeter. Sculpture on the font at Belton, Lincolnshire, shows the *campanarius* attired in his camise, chiming two bells. In our smaller parish churches, too, those bells belonging to minor altars, to Guilds and Fraternities, or used for special Offices, would very frequently be sounding. Thus, at Ludlow—in addition to a ring of five bells—they possessed "Our Lady belle," "First-Mass-Bell," and "the gild belle."* On Sundays and on high-days all the bells appear to have been rung for Matins and Evensong—the two Services which all were expected to attend, and so the custom has continued to the present time. Hooper, in his Injunctions, dated 1551, whilst forbidding ringing at unseasonable times, adds "but before services, as well morning as at even, to warn people by as many peals or ringings as they think good."

The mode of ringing or of chiming for Divine Service varies somewhat in different parishes in Bedfordshire, as in the other counties of England.

At Ampthill, Harrold and Pavenham, all the bells are chimed, followed by a five minutes' sounding of the treble as the parson's bell.

At Cardington, Carlton, Chellington, Goldington, and Houghton-Conquest, all the bells are chimed, followed by a five minutes' tolling of the tenor.

At Apsley Guise and at Eversholt the tenor is rung for a few minutes, followed by a chiming of all the bells.

---

* See *Ludlow Churchwardens' Accounts*, published by Camden Society.

At Barton-le-Clay the treble is rung for fifteen minutes, then all the bells are chimed, followed by the tolling of the treble for five minutes.

At Dunstable they chime all the bells for twenty minutes, followed by the sanctus-bell for ten minutes as a sermon-bell.

At S. Peter's, Bedford, the first four bells are chimed, followed by the tenor bell alone. The same custom is followed at Blunham and at Cranfield. At Melchbourne and at Hawnes the first three are chimed, followed in the same way by the 4th or tenor.

At S. Mary's, Bedford, the bells are chimed for fifteen minutes, after which the tenor is tolled for ten minutes, followed by the priest's bell for five minutes.

At Houghton-Regis the tenor is first rung up as a sermon-bell, and is "dropped in" with the other bells when chiming commences, and so is gradually "lowered," after which it is tolled till the commencement of service. A similar mode is followed at Marston Moretaine (where, however, about twenty strokes on the treble concludes), and also at Stanbridge; indeed, that is the favourite style of using the bells on Sunday in that part of the county. At Husborne-Crawley, too, the tenor is first raised, then "dropped in," whilst the other bells are chimed for twenty minutes, after which the tenor is lowered alone, followed by a chiming of all the bells until a few minutes before the commencement of Divine Service, when the priest's bell concludes the warning.

At Meppershall all the bells are first chimed with the tenor rung in; the tenor is then lowered and chimed with the other bells.

At Clifton ten of the bells are chimed by machinery until five minutes before the commencement of Service, when the 6th, 7th and 8th bells are chimed.

The chiming of the bells at Leighton Buzzard is divided into two peals, between which the tenor is raised and rung as a sermon bell.

At Northill the chiming commences an hour before Divine Service; after a pause it is resumed half-an-hour before the time, and is followed by five minutes' tolling of a single bell.

At Hockliffe any one bell is rung as a sermon-bell, followed by the chiming of the whole three; and at Pertenhall the sermon-bell is first rung, then the three bells are chimed, followed by the tolling—for a few minutes—of the tenor. At Old Warden (where there are four bells) they first chime all for twenty minutes, then toll one bell for five minutes, and conclude by the ringing of the third bell for five minutes.

The bells at Arlesey are usually rung, not chimed, for Services on Sunday.

At Woburn new church the single bell (the largest in the county) is rung up half-an-hour before the hour for Divine Service by three men; then a pause for ten minutes, after which there is ringing again for ten minutes, and the bell is lowered; the ringers receive three shillings per Sunday, paid by the Duke of Bedford.

On the Great Festivals the call to Divine Service is rung instead of chimed at Cople and at Tottenhoe.

These examples show the diversity of usage at present in different parishes, but, no doubt, ancient customs have, in many cases, departed.

Early Sunday Peals.—With the introduction of the "new service" (as the Book of Common Prayer was called) in the time of Edward VI., the singing of the Canonical Hours—with the exception of Matins and Evensong—was dropped. The only traces of them we now have in the use of our church bells, excepting the ringing or chiming for Morning and Evening Prayer, are the ringing of the "first and second peals" on Sunday mornings at seven and eight, or at eight and nine o'clock, in many parishes. In pre-Reformation times matins was said in all parish churches before breakfast as a preparation for mass. The "first peal" was the call to matins, the "second peal" to tierce and mass. It is a curious proof how tenacious custom is in having continued the ringing of these bells for over three hundred years after the purposes they served were abrogated, and when few even think of, or inquire as to, the meaning of their sound.

For these "peals"—which are rung in many Bedfordshire parishes—the smaller bells are generally used. The mode of ringing varies :—

At Houghton Conquest the treble bell is rung at 7 a.m., the 1st and 2nd at 9 a.m.

At Marston Moretaine the 1st is rung at 8 o'clock, and is called "8 o'clock bell," or "first peal," and the 1st and 2nd at 9 a.m.

At Pertenhall they ring the 1st at 7 a.m., and the 1st and 2nd at 8 a.m.

At Stanbridge the 1st is rung at 7.30 a.m., and again at 9.30 (the latter now for Sunday-school).

The two early-peals have, in many parishes, merged into

one ; thus one bell (generally the treble) is rung at 8 o'clock at Ampthill, Bedford (S. Cuthbert), Biddenham, Dunstable (2nd bell), Flitwick, Harlington (for "sermon bell," commonly called "8 o'clock bell"), Kempstone (where they formerly rang 1st at 7 a.m., and 1st and 2nd at 8 a.m.), Lidlington, Millbrooke, Northill, Potten, Shelton, Stotfold, Tilbrook, Wilden, and Wilhampstead. Two bells are rung at the same hour—8 a.m.—at Bedford (S. Peter's), Blunham (1st and 2nd), Cardington (3rd and 4th, called "sermon bells"), Eversholt (1st and 2nd, called "8 o'clock bells"), Leighton Buzzard (3rd and 4th, called "the 8 o'clock peal"), Odell, and at Sandy (1st and 2nd). At Cranfield they chime the 1st, 2nd and 3rd bells at 8 a.m. In some parishes a large bell is rung at 8 a.m. ; thus at Caddington they ring the 5th, and call it the sermon-bell ; at Southill the 3rd is rung, and at Toddington the 6th bell is rung alternately at 8 and at 8.30 a.m. At Houghton Regis the treble is rung at 7 a.m., and is still called the "first peal ;" the treble is rung at the same hour at Milton Bryant and at Turvey, and at Tingrith the 2nd is then rung, and is called the sermon-bell. At Fandish and at Hawnes a bell is rung at 9 a.m.

Many years ago it was the custom at Aspley Guise to ring a bell at 8 a.m. and again at 9 a.m., called respectively "the first and second peals ;" so, too, until recently, one bell was rung at 7 a.m. and two at 8 a.m. at S. Paul's, Bedford. The ringing of a bell at Tilsworth at 7 a.m., and of one at Willington at 8 a.m., are remembered. They have both been discontinued for some years.

The Sermon Bell was heard in Pre-Reformation times, as

is evident from the *Rites of Durham,* and the Royal Injunctions of 1547 ordered a bell in convenient time to be rung or knolled before the sermon. The ringing of this bell, which is usually the tenor, though not universal, is heard in many parishes in this county, and that frequently after the chiming. The tenor bell is so used at Bedford (S. Peter's and S. Mary's), Carlton, Chellington, Egginton, and Milton Ernest ; it is rung before chiming at Houghton Regis, Husborne Crawley, Marston Moretaine, Pertenhall, Stanbridge and at Hockliffe, where any bell, not necessarily the tenor, is rung.

At Leighton Buzzard the tenor is rung as a sermon bell between two peals of chiming. At Dunstable the ringing of the sanctus bell for ten minutes after the chiming of all the bells is called the sermon bell. At Harlington the ringing of the treble at 8 a.m., at Caddington the ringing of the 5th bell, and at Cardington the ringing of the 3rd and 4th at the same hour, are called sermon bells. At Tingrith the 2nd bell, rung at 7 a.m., is called the sermon bell ; and many years ago it was customary after this bell was raised to strike the day of the month. At Tilsworth the ringing of the sermon bell was discontinued about the year 1870, and at Stevington it was rung until recently at 8 a.m.; it was discontinued in consequence of the clerk being a shepherd, and his services being supposed necessary in the fields at that hour.

Sunday Mid-day Peals.—It is customary in some parishes to ring at the close of the Morning Service in a similar manner to that described under Early Peals. Thus the 1st and 2nd bells are so rung at Pertenhall ; at S. Peter's, Bedford, the treble is rung for five minutes, followed by the ringing of the

3rd and 4th bells for five minutes, called "the dinner-bell;" at Blunham and at Cardington a bell (at the latter place the 3rd) is then rung for a few minutes.

As the early peals are frequently considered signals for the Morning Service, so these mid-day ringings are sometimes now used as warnings that Evensong will be said; such is the case at Wilden, where a bell is rung at 12 o'clock when Morning Prayer has not been said, which, however, very rarely happens.

The bell so rung at the close of Morning Service is, in some places, called

The Pudding, or Dinner Bell, being supposed to be rung in order to give the cook warning that Service is over, and so dinner may be prepared. Such is the case at Leighton Buzzard, where the 3rd bell is rung at 1 o'clock, and (as we have seen) at S. Peter's, Bedford. At Tingrith a bell is rung immediately after Morning Service, and is popularly known as

The Potato Bell, "because on hearing this bell the people at home put their potatoes in the pot for boiling." At Wilhampstead the ringing of this bell has been recently discontinued.

This custom is probably the survival of the

Knolling of the Aves, mentioned in the Injunctions of 1538 as being sounded after the Service, and at certain other times, and as having been brought in and begun by the pretence of the Bishop of Rome's pardon, and it was ordered that they be thenceforth left and omitted. Shaxton, Bishop of Sarum in that year, said "that the bell called the Pardon, or Ave Bell, which of longe tyme hathe been used to be tolled three tymes after and before Divine Service, be not hereafter, in any part of my diocese, any more tollyd."

In some places the Aves' bell was tolled thrice every day. That was the case at Cropedy, Oxfordshire, as we know from a benefaction to the bells made by Master Roger Lupton, vicar of that parish, by indenture dated 26 August, 1512. He gave certain money to the churchwardens upon condition that they should, amongst other things, "toll dayly the Avees bell at sex of the clok in the mornyng, at xij of the clok at noone, and at foure of the clok at afternoone."*

The saying of the Aves was between the tolling. Among the Articles of Enquiry in 1547 was one whether the knolling at the Aves be used.

The ringing or tolling of a bell or bells before the chiming commences for Divine Service at Aspley Guise, Barton-le-Clay, and in other parishes, may be, and probably is—as well as the ringing at the close of the Service—a continuance of the custom of knolling the Aves.

The Passing-Bell.—Besides the use of bells for calling to Divine Service, the Canons enjoin the tolling of the "Passing-bell." The custom of notifying, by this means, the passing of a soul out of this life, is almost, if not quite, as ancient in this country as the use of bells by the Church. Bede records its use as early as the year 680.† Durand, writing about the close of the twelfth century, thus describes the object, as well as the mode, of ringing:—

> When any one is dying, bells must be tolled, that the people may put up their prayers, twice for a woman and thrice for a man: if for a clergyman, as many times as he had orders.‡

---

* *Historical Notices of Cropedy*, by Rev. D. Royce, p. 43.

† *Bede*, Book iv. c. xxiii.

‡ Brand's *Pop. Antiq.* ii. 129.

The Passing-bell was, of course, then rung at all hours of the night, as well as by day. After the Reformation the custom of ringing the Passing-bell in the ancient way was continued. Bishop Hooper, in his Injunctions (1551) allowed it, the Royal Injunctions of 1559 enjoined it, and the Advertisements of 1564 show it was then usual to ring or toll the Passing-bell whilst the person was believed to be dying, but not yet dead. In after-years the Bishops inquired in their Articles whether the Passing-bell was so tolled; indeed, the custom was continued until recent times. An aged friend recently told the writer that when his mother was *in extremis* she desired her maid to order the Passing-bell to be tolled, and other similar instances are on record.* Persons have even been known to recover their health after their Passing-bell had been tolled.† The ancient custom of so ringing the Passing-bell had gradually fallen almost into disuse about a century ago. Wheatley speaks of it as being generally disused in 1755.‡

The bell now used for the Passing-bell (or more properly, the Death-knell, as it is not now rung until after death) is usually the tenor, but this is sometimes changed, as we shall see, in the case of children, for a smaller bell. At the close, or the commencement, or at both, of the Passing-bell, it has long been the custom to indicate the sex of the person departing, or departed, by certain strokes or tolls of the bell. These have generally been three for a male (in honour of the Holy Trinity), and two for a female (in honour of our Saviour,

---

* See North's *Church Bells of Lincolnshire*, p. 173.

† *Ibid.*, p. 173.

‡ *Rat. Ill. of Book of Com. Prayer*, p. 427.

born of a woman) on the tenor bell, as at Ampthill—where all the bells are previously sounded in succession for half-an-hour—S. Cuthbert's, Bedford, and Biggleswade.

At Goldington these tolls are given both before and after the knell.

At S. Paul's and S. Mary's, Bedford, Kempston, Potton Sandy, and Steppingley, the same distinctive tolls—three for a male, two for a female—are given on the tenor for adults, on a smaller bell for children.

The same number of tolls are given on each bell after the knell at Clapham, Oakley and Milton Ernest (where the knell is rung for five minutes only), and before the knell at Carlton, Chellington, Harrold, Langton (where they begin with the treble for children), Northill, Odell, Pavenham, Stanbridge, Stevington, Stotfold, Tilsworth and Toddington ; the same custom is followed at Blunham, Houghton Conquest and Tingrith, where, however, the knell is tolled on the treble bell for infants.

At Marston Moretaine they give three tolls for a male and two for a female on all the bells, beginning with the treble, both before and after the knell, which is rung on the tenor for adults, on the 4th or 3rd for young people in their teens and under.

At Flitwick three strokes are given on all the bells for a male, two for a female, commencing on the tenor for adults, on the treble for children under twelve years of age.

At Great Barford each bell is sounded three times for a man, twice for a woman, and once for a baby before the knell, which is rung on the tenor for males, on the treble for females.

At Clophill they give the same tolls on each bell for a man, and two on each bell for a woman or child.

At Old Warden three strokes are given on each bell for a man, two for a woman, and one for a child, after which the tenor is rung up and sounded once a minute.

Another usual form of notifying the sex in this county, as elsewhere, is thrice three tolls for a male, and thrice two for a female. Such is the custom after the knell at Caddington, Dunton, Lidlington and Salford; and both before and after the knell at Aspley Guise, Chalgrave, Cranfield, Dunstable, Eversholt, Houghton Regis (where the 3rd bell is used for young people), Hulcote, Leighton Buzzard, Milton Bryant, Pertenhall, Pottesgrove, Tottenhoe, Wootton and Woburn; at Tottenhoe and Wootton the treble is used for children.

At Battlesden and Wilhampstead the custom is to give, after the knell, thrice three tolls for a man, thrice two for a woman, and three single tolls for infants: the same custom is followed, both before and after the knell, at Egginton and at Hockliffe; also at Millbrooke, where the tolls are given on both the bells.

At Harlington the thrice three tolls for a male and thrice two for a female are given on all the bells in succession before the knell: the same custom is followed at Meppershall, where the tenor is used for adults, the treble for children, and where, after the knell is rung and the bell lowered, the age of the deceased is tolled.

At Shillington the same number of tolls are given on the tenor bell for adults, on the 4th bell for young people, and on the treble for children.

At Southill they give the same number of tolls (3×3 and

3 × 2) on the tenor for people above twenty years of age, on the 5th for those under twenty, on the 4th if under sixteen, on the 3rd if under twelve, on the 2nd if under eight, and on the treble if under four years of age. These are given before and after the knell on the tenor bell, which is rung with a stroke at intervals of a few seconds.

Different customs are observed in other parishes. Thus at Cardington they give three tolls for a male on the bells in succession, commencing with the 8th (tenor) bell, and going to the 3rd, when the tenor is rung for the knell; the same number of strokes are given on the same bells for a female, but commencing with the 3rd and going on to the 8th.

At Dean and at Melchbourne three tolls are given for males on the tenor, and the same number on the treble for females, both before and after the knell on the tenor, which is tolled forty minutes for adults and fifteen minutes for children.

At Tilbrook three strokes are given on all the bells "for all alike."

At Husborne Crawley thrice three tolls for a male and thrice two for a female are given on the 3rd, 4th and 5th bells before and after the knell, which is rung on the tenor for adults, on the 5th bell for children.

At Keysoe the custom is to give three tolls twice on all the bells both before and after the knell, which is rung for an hour, for males and females alike, commencing with the tenor for the former, with the treble for the latter.

At Turvey they give, at the close of the knell on the tenor bell, thrice three tolls on all the bells, commencing with the treble, for a male above twelve years of age; for a female of

the same age the same number of tolls are given in succession on the first five bells ; for children under twelve the 5th bell is used for the knell, closing with three tolls on the first five bells for a boy, on the first four for a girl.

In some parishes they give no distinctive tolls, but use a different bell for the knell, according to the age of the deceased. Thus at Clifton the tenor is used for adults, one of the middle bells for a young person, and the 3rd for infants. So, too, at Edworth the 3rd is used for adults, the 2nd for young persons, and the treble for infants ; and at Wilden—where the knell is rung for an hour—the tenor is used for adults and the treble for children.

There is no distinction of any kind at Gravenhurst, Hawnes and Willington.

In this county, as elsewhere, the Passing-bell is not rung in cases where an inquest is held, until the jury have given a verdict other than *felo-de-se*.

Death-Knell.—In addition to the Passing-bell, the Canon enjoins that "after the party's death, if it so fall out, there shall be rung no more than one short peal." That custom is mentioned by Durand (who wrote about the end of the twelfth century), in the *Book of Ceremonies* (1539), and in the Articles of Inquiry issued by the Bishops after the Reformation, who used such words as "or to ring a knell presently after the departure, that notice may be taken by all to give God thanks for that party's deliverance out of this vale of misery." Even the Puritans in 1562 were willing to allow it, only stipulating that "no peal after death of any person be above the space of one hour." Wheatley wrote of "the short

peal" after death as being generally rung in 1755, but the custom has now entirely fallen into disuse, or rather, perhaps, it would be more correct to say, has been superseded by the ringing of the still so-called Passing-bell after instead of before death, or whilst the soul was "passing." A trace of it may perhaps be found in some parishes, where the tenor bell is first *tolled* for a short space and then *rung*.

Burial Peals.—The Canon enjoins, "and one other (peal) before the burial, and one after the burial."

This sounding of bells at funerals is an ancient custom, and had been carried to great excess; indeed, so early as 1339 Bishop Grandisson, of Exeter, found it desirable to check the long ringings on such occasions, on the grounds that "they do no good to the departed, are an annoyance to the living, and injurious to the fabrick and the bells."* The Puritans, in 1562, desired to limit the peals at funerals to half-an-hour. Notices of this custom are constantly found in Churchwardens' Accounts and in other Parish Records, and provision was frequently made for its performance by Will. It is, however, now becoming obsolete, though it still lingers in a few parishes in this as in other counties. At Cople they chime the five bells for funerals; at Hulcote and at Salford the bells are chimed for about twenty-five minutes before a funeral, followed by a tolling of the tenor for five minutes; at Harrold the practice, though not now followed, is remembered as customary.

Simple tolling of the tenor bell, until the procession reaches the church, is now the general custom.

The "one peal after" the funeral is now of rare occurrence,

* Ellacombe's *Bells of Exeter Cathedral*, p. 7.

excepting in the case of ringers and other church officials. The only trace of it I have found still surviving in this county is at Flitwick, where about five strokes are given on the tenor at the close of the Service. Until about the year 1872, the tenor bell was always tolled at Woburn at the end of the Office as the mourners left the grave.

In pre-Reformation times the church bells were frequently ringing on Obit-days, that is, on the anniversaries of the deaths of persons, when masses—for which provision had been made by the deceased, or by their friends—were said for their benefit. Although such have long ceased in the English Church,

Commemorative Services, when the bells are chimed, are not unknown. Oliver Peach, of Harrowden, a hamlet of Cardington, in this County, who died on the 19th of June, 1715, aged 60 years, left a yearly rent-charge of one pound on his estate, afterwards purchased by Mr. Whitbread, for an annual sermon on the 21st of June—the day of his burial.

The Sanctus or Saunce Bell is generally mentioned in the Inventories of Church Goods taken in the reign of Edward VI. It was sometimes hung in a little bellcote at the gable of the chancel roof between that portion of the church and the nave, but more usually in a convenient position in the belfry—not unfrequently in a window—so that the rope came down into the church with easy access to the server at the altar. When the priest said the *Sanctus* in the Office of the Mass, three strokes were given on this bell (hence its name), so that all within reach of its sound—whether within or without the church—could join in the sacred song of adoration.

A few successors of the Sanctus-bell are in the Bedfordshire churches in the "Priest's-bell," or "ting-tang," usually rung immediately before the service begins. These are in many cases modern, being, probably, recasts of the ancient Sanctus-bells. There are, however, two of those ancient bells still remaining in this county—the one at Lidlington and the other at Dunstable.

The Sanctus-bell may have been used upon other occasions than the one just mentioned. Dr. Rock was of opinion that in many parishes some kind of instruction was given every Sunday in the afternoon—we know that was the case at Durham. To warn the parish of the sermon time, a large bell, or bells, would be rung for a time, followed, perhaps, by the ringing of the smaller or Sanctus-bell,* hence, probably, the origin of the modern use of

The Priest's-bell or Ting-Tang. At Ware, in Hertfordshire, they possessed in 1552, "one lyttle belle to calle for ye prieste, clarke or sexton when they are absent."† This bell was occasionally called the 'Tantony-bell, or Saint Anthony bell, a small bell being the emblem of that Saint;‡ and at Oldham it was described as "The Anthem-bell."§

As just indicated, the Priest's-bell is usually sounded for a few minutes before Divine Service to call the clergy, but the one at Dunstable is rung as a Sermon-bell, and the one at Toddington is not only rung at the usual time, but also as an alarm-bell in case of fire. At Luton the Priest's-bell—which

---

* See *Notes and Queries*, vol. xi., p. 150 (1855).

† Cussans' *Church Goods in Herts*, p. 123.

‡ See North's *Church Bells of Northants* p. 138.

§ *Cheetham Soc.*, cvii. p. 43.

has not been used for twenty years—is unhung, and is in an outhouse at the Rectory. It is said to have been formerly known as the Curfew-bell, and afterwards as the Fire-bell. It may be worth noting that the one at Wootton hangs in a turret, and is always rung from the chancel—the ancient mode of ringing the Sanctus-bell—when the parson enters the church for service.

The Sacring-bell is mentioned in the Inventories of Church Goods belonging to Eversholt and Westoning in 1552. It was a small hand-bell used formerly in every church in the Office of the Mass, to warn the people that the elevation was about to take place; it generally hung in the chancel; sometimes a number of small bells affixed to a wheel, which was pulled by a cord, were used to give the warning.* At Hemswell, Lincolnshire, this bell was called the "Agnus-bell," from its being rung at the elevation of the chalice at the close of the Canon, followed immediately by the singing of the *Agnus*. The ringing of the Sacring-bell was forbidden in the Injunctions issued in 1549-50; indeed, the necessity for it passed away when the Order of Holy Communion was commanded to be used in English.

Hand-bells are also mentioned as existing in parish churches when the Inventories were taken in the reign of Edward VI. They were then found at Battlesden, Cranfield, Husborne Crawley, Salford, and Westoning, and were, doubtless, at the other churches in this county, whose Inventories have not yet been discovered. They were used in a variety of ways

* See *Church Bells of Northants*, p. 139.

in pre-Reformation times: in processions on Rogation-days, in the procession when the Eucharist was borne to the house of the sick or dying, to give warning of its approach, that all might pay reverence to it; hence it was sometimes called—as at Great Gonerby, Lincolnshire—"the Houselling-bell;" it was also rung to clear the way, and to call for a prayer for the deceased at the burial of the dead, and so was frequently called "the Corse-bell" or "Lych-bell;" indeed, the hand-bell was used in a variety of ways in the mediæval Church.

The Curfew.—I am not aware that the curfew is now rung in any parish in Bedfordshire. It was formerly (till about the year 1835) rung at S. Paul's, Bedford, at 8 p.m. in the winter, at 9 p.m. in the summer; but it was discontinued when the Corporation declined to pay the ringer's fee. So, too, it was rung at Leighton Buzzard until about the same date. At Luton the Priest's-bell is said to have been formerly known as the Curfew-bell, and at Woburn there is a tradition that the Curfew was regularly heard there many years ago.

The Early Morning-bell.—As the Curfew, when it ceased to be legally enforced as a notice for the extinction of fire and candle, probably became the evening *Angelus*—a warning to all to say an *Ave* to the Blessed Virgin before retiring to rest;* so the ringing of the early morning-bell arose from an extension of that practice. In 1399 Archbishop Arundel issued a mandate commanding that at early dawn one "Our Father," and five "Hail Marys," should be said.† As a reminder to all of this duty, the *Angelus*—which was frequently

* See Rock's *Church of our Fathers*, iii., p. 337.

† Walcott's *Sac. Arch.*

called "Gabriel," from being dedicated to the Angel of the Annunciation—was rung very frequently as early as four o'clock in the morning. The bells bearing the inscription *Ave Maria*—of which there are several remaining in this county—were probably used for the same purpose. The early morning-bell—the tenor—was rung at Toddington in this county at four o'clock until the year 1877, when it ceased. At Hockliffe, too, until recently, a bell was rung daily at 7 a.m., and again at 9 a.m. A morning-bell was formerly rung at 4 a.m. at Woburn "as a school-bell in connection with the free-school there." It was afterwards rung at 6 a.m., but has been entirely discontinued for about forty years. At Eversholt the 1st or 2nd bell is still rung daily, excepting Sunday, at 8 a.m.

Other Daily Bells.—A mid-day *Angelus* was rung in France in the fifteenth century. Although that custom does not appear to have been followed generally in this country,* a Mid-day-bell was rung in some parishes, and is still heard in a few; but whether it be in all cases a survival of the mid-day *Angelus* is very doubtful. At Turvey the treble bell is tolled—and has been from time immemorial—at noon (12 o'clock), and is now considered as a signal for dinner. At Eversholt a bell is rung daily at one o'clock, and at Cranfield the 1st and 2nd bells are rung daily—Sundays excepted—at one and two o'clock, and are called dinner-bells. The Mid-day-bell (3rd) is remembered as being formerly rung daily at mid-day at Oakley, and the 2nd bell at one o'clock at Pottesgrove.

* The "Ave-bell" was rung at noon at Cropedy, Oxfordshire. See *Historical Notices of Cropedy*, by Rev. D. Royce, p. 43.

In the absence of all evidence to the contrary, the use of these mid-day bells may be generally attributed to a secular origin—the giving warning to agricultural labourers and others of the time—rather than to a religious one.

The Pancake-bell was originally the Shrive-bell, which was rung on Shrove, or Shrive Tuesday, as a warning to all to come to church, where the parish priest sat in an open chair, or stall, to hear the confessions of his people, and to award them such penance as he thought good for them, or to give them absolution. Again, in times when Lent was more strictly observed than now as a time of abstinence from flesh-meat, the housewives, we are told, in order to use up all the grease, lard and dripping, made pancakes, and the apprentices and others about the house were summoned to the meal by the ringing of a bell, which was, naturally, called "The Pancake-bell."*

The ringing on Shrove Tuesday of the Shrive-bell, now called the Pancake-bell, is still continued in a few parishes in this county, and is remembered in many more.

At S. Paul's, Bedford, the 5th bell is rung at eleven o'clock, at Cranfield the 3rd bell is rung, at Toddington the 6th; at Turvey the 1st and 2nd are chimed together at noon, making a most unmelodious noise, which is supposed to indicate the approaching commencement of the gloomy season of Lent.

Within living memory the Pancake-bell was rung at Cardington (6th bell from eleven till twelve o'clock), Eversholt, Harrold, Hulcote, Marston Moretaine, Oakley, Salford,

* See *Notes and Queries*, 3rd S. vi. 404.

Wootton, and Woburn; and at Wilden it is traditionally remembered.

The quaint old clerk who serves both Carlton and Chellington, and who is (1881) 84 years of age, says the Pancake-bell used to be rung at Carlton "by a chap" whom he describes as "a Roman," but that since his death, about twenty-five years ago, the bells have not been kept up to the same pitch of ringing, and the Pancake-bell has been discontinued.

Advent Ringing.—Although there is no special peal rung on Advent Sunday in this county, as in some parishes elsewhere, it is customary in Bedfordshire, as in other counties, for the ringers to practise ringing during the weeks in Advent, and to ring much during the Christmas season; such is the case at Arlesey, Aspley Guise, Barton-le-Clay, Cople, Dunstable, Hartington, Hockliffe, Hulcote, Meppershall, and Salford.

Christmas Peals are rung in many parishes on the Eve of the Festival. Such is the case at Aspley Guise, Biggleswade, Cardington, Dean, Egginton, Eversholt, Flitwick, Hockliffe, Houghton Conquest, Husborne Crawley, Leighton Buzzard, Marston Moretaine, Melchbourne, Meppershall, Pertenhall, Sandy, and Tingrith.

The ringing at midnight is an old custom which is followed at Great Barford, Blunham, Cople, Hartington, Houghton Regis, Keysoe, Stanbridge, Turvey, and Woburn.

Merry peals are rung early on Christmas morning at Arlesey (at 6 a.m.), Great Barford, Barton-le-Clay, Cranfield, Flitwich (at 8 o'clock), Goldington, Houghton Regis, Keysoe

(at 7 a.m. and at 4 p.m.), Meppershall, Southill, Tilsworth, Toddington, and at Turvey (at 7 a.m.)

Easter-day is ushered in by peals on the bells at Arlesey, Eversholt, Leighton Buzzard, Meppershall, Tilsworth, and Toddington. At Turvey the bells are rung at the close of afternoon service, and at Houghton Regis the are bells sometimes rung instead of chimed for Service on this great Festival.

So, too, on other Festivals the bells are sometimes rung:—

The Epiphany: Peals are rung at Tilsworth.

Ascension-day: Peals are rung at the same place.

Whitsunday Peals are rung at Eversholt, Leighton Buzzard, Tilsworth, Toddington, Turvey, and sometimes at Cranfield.

Lady-day: the bells at Tilsworth are rung on the Feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary.

Trinity Sunday: the bells at Eversholt are rung,

Lenten Ringing: the bells of the church should be silent in Lent excepting for Divine Service. No other ringing is allowed at Eversholt, Husborne Crawley, Leighton Buzzard, Tilsworth (excepting one half hour a week for practice: none for any wedding), Turvey, and Woburn.

Good Friday Use: at Eversholt the "early peal" at 8 a.m. is rung on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday as on Sundays. At Keysoe the tenor bell is tolled for Service on Good Friday.

New Year's-eve: the bells are rung on New Year's-eve at—amongst other places—Aspley Guise, Biggleswade, Cranfield, Dean, Melchbourne, Hockliffe, Husborne Crawley,

Marston Moretaine, Sandy, Shillington, Tingrith, Toddington, and Tottenhoe.

New Year's-eve and New Year's-day: the old year is rung out and the new rung in, at Arlesey, Blunham, Cardington, Cople, Eversholt, Flitwick, Hartington, Houghton Regis, Leighton Buzzard, Shelton, Southill, Stanbridge, Wilden, and Woburn. At Meppershall a muffled peal is rung on New Year's-eve for half-an-hour before midnight, ceasing a few minutes before twelve, to allow of the mufflers being removed. At midnight the number twelve is struck on the tenor, and then another peal is rung for half-an-hour. A peal is also rung at day-break on New Year's-day. Early peals are also rung on that day at Barton-le-Clay, Marston Moretaine, Shillington, and Harlington.

S. Hugh's-day: in the Churchwardens' Accounts of Shillington are charges in many years between 1574 and 1594 for ringing on S. Hugh's-day. It may be well to note that this ringing was not in honour of the great Bishop of Lincoln, but in celebration of the accession of Queen Elizabeth, which took place upon S. Hugh's-day, and which Saint's day, in accordance with ancient custom, was frequently quoted as a date instead of the day and the month—17th November. The day was also known as "Queen's-day."

Dedication Peals are rung at Tilsworth on All Saint's-day; at Turvey on the Monday following the first Sunday after All Saints'-day, and at Milton Ernest on "the Feast-day," which is said to be the 2nd Sunday in July, although the church is supposed to be dedicated to all Saints.

Until quite recently a peal was always rung at Husborne

Crawley at 8 a.m. on S. James'-day, the titular Saint of the Church. This ringing, which was voluntary on the part of the ringers, was, it is said, discontinued in consequence of an objection being made to the time, possibly by the farmers, most of the ringers being labourers.

Banns Peal—that is, a peal after Divine Service on Sunday morning, when the banns of an intended marriage are first "put up"—is sometimes rung at Biddenham, Hulcote, and Langford; at the last mentioned place the ringing depends entirely on the "tips" given to the sexton, which, he says, vary "from five bob to only a pint or two."

Wedding Peals are, of course, usual in almost every parish in the county; at Pertenhall, however, they are only very occasionally rung for a wedding by license; at Pottesgrove they are heard "now and then;" at Tottenhoe they are "few and far between;" at Tilsworth no wedding peal is allowed to be rung during Lent; at Marston Moretaine peals are rung during the day if the parties can pay—if they are poor the ringers give a peal in the evening; and at Husborne Crawley merry peals are voluntarily given in the evening of the day on every marriage at the church, without respect of persons, if the ringers can muster, which is generally the case.

The Bride's Peal is occasionally rung in some parishes on the morning after the wedding, called "Ringing them up." The only approach to it in Bedfordshire is at Steppingley, where, sometimes, a peal is rung on the day after the wedding.

Fair Peals are rung at Toddington on the 25th April, being the day of the fair.

The Oven-bell: the mill and oven of the Lord of the

Manor formerly existed in many parishes; to them the tenants of the Manor were expected to resort to grind their corn and to bake their bread. In some places a bell was rung, called the "oven-bell," to give warning that the Manor oven was heated and ready for use. There is only one trace of this custom in Bedfordshire—at Shillington there are faint reminiscences of the Oven-bell being rung, but the custom has been long discontinued.

The Market-bell, which was formerly heard in many market towns, where it was rung to announce when buying and selling should commence, and so prevent forestalling, etc., has no representative now in this county. The only trace of it I have found—and that not in connection with a church bell—is at Woburn, where a small bell, used as a Market-bell, formerly hung at the Town Hall. It was stolen from the Park Farm—where it had been placed for safety during the building of a new Town Hall—about the year 1829.

The Restoration of Charles the Second is well commemorated in this county. At Cranfield ringing commences as early as three o'clock in the morning, and is continued at intervals throughout the day; a large bough of oak is affixed to the top of the church tower, and the day is observed, more or less, as a holiday in the village. At Toddington the bells are rung from three till five o'clock in the morning. At Blunham they ring two or three peals, commencing at four o'clock in the morning; and the bells are still rung on this day at Dunstable, Houghton Conquest, Houghton Regis (morning and evening), Kempstone, Marston Moretaine, Potton, and at Shillington (with an oak bough on the tower),

where we find a very early instance of it recorded in the Churchwardens' Accounts :—

1661. Given to ye Ringers ye 29th of May..... o 2 6

Until recently the bells were rung on this day at Cardington, Carlton, Chellington, Harrold, Oakley, Sharnbrook, Willington, and Wilden.

The Gleaning-bell is rung in many parishes during harvest in the morning and evening, that all—old and feeble, as well as young and active—may have a fair start. Such a bell is rung at 7 a.m. and at 6 p.m. at Great Barford, Blunham, Carlton, Chellington, Keysoe, Langford, and at Muggerhanger ; at 7 a.m. and at 7 p.m. at Houghton Regis, Milton Ernest, Pavenham, and Willington ; at Sandy the 1st bell is rung at 6 a.m. and at 6 p.m. ; at Bolnhurst a bell is rung at 6 a.m., and again in the evening ; at Clifton and at Harrold the bell is rung in the morning at 7 a.m. The school-bell (not one of the church bells) is rung as the Gleaning-bell at Meppershall.

The Gleaning-bell is remembered as being rung, though now discontinued, at Dunton, Marston Moretaine, Pertenhall, Sharnbrook, Turvey, and Wilden. At Turvey the gleaners used to pay a fee of a halfpenny each to the ringer.

The Execution-bell : the 5th bell at S. Paul's, Bedford, was formerly tolled as the criminal passed on his way to be hanged, calling on the people to pray for one passing from this life.

The Fire-bell : a special bell is sometimes rung as an alarm in case of fire. The Priest's-bell is so rung at Todding-

ton, the 5th at Houghton Regis, and the tenor at Husborne Crawley.

Gunpowder Plot.—The discovery of this plot is still commemorated by the ringing of merry peals at Cranfield, Dunstable, Goldington, Houghton Conquest, Kempstone, Leighton Buzzard, Marston Moretaine, Odell, Pertenhall, Potton, Sandy, Wootton, and, occasionally, at Stanbridge.

At Houghton Regis the bells are raised and clashed or fired (*i.e.* all together) at intervals—called in Lincolnshire "shooting old Guy"—breaking into rounds after about half-a-dozen "fires." At Toddington, too, the bells are similarly rung.

Ringing on this day is remembered, though not now practised, at S. Peter's, Bedford, Cardington, Carlton, Chellington, Harrold, Hawnes, Oakley, Sharnbrook, Wilden, and Willington. The Churchwardens' Accounts of Shillington have an early entry about it :—

1619. Bestowed upon the ringers the v^th^ of November ..... xij*d.*

and in 1665 there is a charge for ringing on "Gunpowder Tresson day."

The Mote or Common Bell which was ordered by Edward the Confessor to be sounded, in case of danger, to convene the people, and which was so commonly used, at least, in all large towns in mediæval and later times, as at Stafford, "to geather to all things pertening to the towne," has a representative in many parishes in

The Vestry Bell, which is rung as a summons to a town or parish meeting. The 1st bell is rung as a call to vestry meetings at Barton-le-Clay, Battlesden, Blunham, Harlington,

Stanbridge, Tilsworth, Turvey and Wilden; the 2nd bell is rung at Langford; the 3rd at Ampthill and at Husborne Crawley; the 4th at Pavenham; the 5th at Houghton Regis; the 6th at Toddington; the 7th at Dunstable; the tenor at Goldington and at Hockliffe; one of the bells is also rung as a summons to vestries at Chalgrave, Clapham, Cople, Cranfield, Dunton, Egginton, Gravenhurst, Hatley Cockayne, Houghton Conquest, Hulcote, Keysoe, Lidlington, Milton Bryant, Milton Ernest, Pertenhall, Shillington, Tilbrook, Tingrith, and Old Warden.

At S. Paul's and at S. Peter's, Bedford, the summons is by about ninety strokes given on the tenor bell three times, with a short interval between each tolling.

Until recently the vestry-bell was heard at S. Mary's, Bedford, Carlton, Chellington, Kempstone, Pottesgrove, Sandy, Wootton, and Woburn.

Induction-bell: the old custom of the new parish priest ringing one of the church bells upon being inducted into his living is referred to in an entry in the Parish Register of Houghton Conquest thus:—

> Mr. Beverly took poset'on of the church of Houghton Conquest and Ronge his Bells the 7th day of Jun being wisson Sunday.

Mayor's Peals are rung at S. Mary's, Bedford, when the new mayor is chosen.

Public Rejoicings would be incomplete without merry peals from the church bells; so thought the Corporation of Bedford when, as recorded in their *Black Book*, they received

their new Charter from Charles the Second, in the year 1684. The entries are :—

1684. April 11. Renewal of Charter.
July 23. Ordered that the Chamberlains do pay Henry Lower £32. 17. 6. for Dinners and Wine the 19th Inst. July being the Day of the Reception of the new Charter and Treatment of the Earl of Aylesbury and other Gent. there present. And £1. 5. 0. to be paid to the Ringers.*

Loyal Peals : upon all occasions calling for an expression of loyalty, such as the anniversaries of the Queen's birthday, accession and coronation, the bells are rung in many parishes, and so it was in times past. The accounts of the churchwardens of Shillington have entries such as :—

1628. Item given to the Ringers on the Coronation day ..... ij*s.*
1629. Ite' given for ringing upon the King's holyday..... ij*s.*

That would be S. James' Day, when, as we know from similar records in other parishes, the bells were then frequently rung.

We have already seen (p. 22) that change-ringing was practised in this county at an early date ; we have noticed its gradual decline, and have referred to the efforts now being made to revive the art by the establishment of a Bedfordshire Association of Change-ringers.

It may be well to remark that this Association is not only intended to encourage the cultivation of scientific change-ringing, but to promote belfry reform.

---

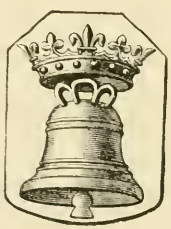
* For making these extracts I am indebted to D. G. Cary-Elwes, Esq., F.S.A.

An important step towards that reform is to make the ringers' chamber not only clean, but comfortable; it should be furnished with proper light, with pegs for coats and hats, and have the windows glazed. Another important step forward is made when the parson, rope in hand, can take his place among the ringers, and by his presence improve their moral standard and the general tone of the belfry.

The bells, too, should be well looked after. Mr. Haweis says: "The Belfry should look like a fire-engine room in a first-rate factory. It should be a pleasure as well as an instructive lesson to go into it. When all was in motion, everything should be so neatly fitted and thoroughly oiled, that we should hear no sound save only the melodious booming of the bells themselves."*

---

* *Music and Morals*, p. 460.



LATIN INSCRIPTIONS

ON

CHURCH BELLS IN BEDFORDSHIRE.

[With Translations.*]

AVE MARIA.
[*Hail Mary.*]

CUM CANO BUSTA MORI CUM PULPITA VIVERE DISCE,
DISCE MORI NOSTRO VIVERE DISCE SONO.
[*When I sing of Tombs, learn to die; when of Pulpits, learn to live; learn by our sound to die (and) learn to live.*]

CUM VOCO VENITE.
[*Come when I call.*]

DOMINE MEMENTO MEI.
[*Remember me, O Lord.*]

EGO SUM VOX CLAMANTIS.
[*I am the voice of one crying.*]

EX ANNA NATA SALVET NOS VIRGO BEATA.
[*May the Blessed Virgin, born of Anna, save us.*]

* For these I am indebted to the kindness of a friend.

FYDELIS MĒSURIS NOMEN CAMPANA MYKAELYS.
[The Rev. I. T. Fowler suggests that as it stands it may be *Michael's bell is* (my) *name* (I am) *true in* (my) *measures* (dimensions or tone); but that something seems to be missing, and "Fydelis" clearly ought to rhyme with "Mykaelis."]

GLORIA DEO SOLI
[*Glory to God alone.*]

GLORIA DEO IN EXCELSIS.
[*Glory to God in the highest.*]

GLORIA PATRI FILIO ET SPIRITUI SANCTO.
[*Glory be to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.*]

GRATA SIT ARGUTA RESONANS CAMPANULA VOCE.
[*May the little bell be pleasant, sounding with clear tone.*]

GURGITE ET AUDITE VOCEM MEAM.
[*And hear my voice in the depth.*]

HOC SIGNUM PETRI PULSATUR NOMINE CHRISTI FUSUM. A.D. MDCCCXXV.
[*This bell of Peter is rung in the name of Christ. Cast A.D.* 1825.]

HONORABILI VIRO DOMINO HENRIC. GRAYE MARIQUE UXORI EJUS BENE PRECATUR ARTIFEX 1580.
[*The founder prays well for the Hon. Lord Henry Graye and for Mary his wife,* 1580.]

IH'S NAZARENUS REX JUDEORUM FILI DEI MISERERE MEI.
[*Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews, O Son of God, have mercy on me.*]

IN MULTIS ANNIS RESONET CAMPANA IOHANNIS.
[*For many years may John's bell resound.*]

MUSA RAFAELIS SONAT AURIBUS EMANUELIS.
[*The song of Raphael sounds in Emmanuel's ears.*]

NOMEN MAGDALENE CAMPANA GERET MELODIE.
[*This bell shall bear melodiously the name of Magdalene.*]

NON CLAMOR SED AMOR CANTAT IN AURE DEI.
[*Love's voice, not noise, sings in the ear of God.*]

NON VERBO SED VOCE RESONABO DOMINI LAUDES.
[*Resound the praises of the Lord not in word, but with voice.*]

O MARTIR XP̄OFORE PRO NOBIS SEMPER ORATE.
[*O Martyr Christopher, ever pray for us.*]

OMNIA FIANT AD GLORIAM DEI.
[*Let all be done to the glory of God.*]

PATER IN MANUS TUAS COMMENDO SPIRITUM MEUM.
[*Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit.*]

SANCTE PAULE ORA PRO NOBIS.
[*Holy Paul, pray for us.*]

SIT NOMEN DOMINI BENEDICTUM.
[*Blessed be the Name of the Lord.*]

STATUTUM EST OMNIBUS SEMEL MORI.
[*It is appointed unto all men once to die.*]

SUM ROSA PULSATA MUNDI MARIA VOCATA.
[*I, being rung, am called Mary the Rose of the World.*]

SUM CAMPANA MARIE MATRIS MESSIE PIE.
[*I am the bell of Mary, the pious mother of Messiah.*]

TE DEUM LAUDAMUS.
[*We praise Thee as God.*]

TU INTONAS DE COELIS VOX CAMPANÆ MICHAELIS ITERUM FUSA.
[*Thou soundest from the heavens, O voice of bell Michael cast again.*]

VOX AUGUSTINI SONET IN AURE DEI.
[*Let the voice of Augustine sound in the ear of God.*]

XP̄E AUDI NOS.
[*O Christ, hear us.*]

List of the Average Weights and Sizes of Bells cast by Messrs. Mears & Stainbank, Whitechapel; Messrs. Taylor & Co., Loughborough; and Messrs. Warner & Sons, Cripplegate, London. The diameter being known, a reference to this list will give the approximate weight of any bell.

	Messrs. Mears.			Messrs. Taylor.			Messrs. Warner.			
	Weight.			*Weight.*			*Weight.*			
Inches.	*cwts.*	*qrs.*	*lbs.*	*cwts.*	*qrs.*	*lbs.*	*cwts.*	*qrs.*	*lbs.*	*Inches.*
20	1	3	0	2	0	0	1	3	0	20
21	2	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	21
22	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	1	0	22
23	2	3	0	2	3	0	2	2	14	23
24	3	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	24
25	3	2	0	3	2	0	3	2	0	25
26	4	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	26
27	4	1	0	4	2	0	4	1	0	27
28	4	2	0	5	0	0	4	3	0	28
29	5	0	0	5	2	0	5	1	0	29
30	5	1	0	6	0	0	5	3	0	30
31	6	2	0	6	2	0	6	0	0	31
32	6	0	0	7	1	0	6	2	14	32
33	6	3	0	7	3	0	7	0	0	33
34	7	2	0	8	1	0	7	2	0	34
35	7	0	0	9	0	0	8	0	0	35
36	8	0	0	9	3	0	8	2	0	36
37	9	0	0	10	2	0	9	0	0	37
38	9	2	0	11	0	0	10	0	0	38
39	10	0	0	11	3	0	10	3	0	39
40	11	0	0	12	2	0	12	0	0	40
41	13	2	22	13	2	0	12	3	0	41
42	14	2	0	14	2	0	13	3	0	42
43	14	3	0	15	2	0	14	2	0	43
44	16	2	0	16	2	0	15	0	0	44
45	17	3	18	17	2	0	16	0	0	45
46	17	0	0	18	2	0	17	0	0	46
47	18	0	0	20	0	0	18	0	0	47
48	20	0	0	21	0	0	19	0	0	48
49	20	0	0	22	0	0	20	3	0	49
50	22	0	0	23	2	0	23	0	0	50
51	25	1	10	25	0	0	24	2	0	51
52	24	0	0	27	0	0	25	3	0	52
53	25	0	0	28	0	0	27	0	0	53
54	26	0	0	30	0	0	28	0	0	54
55	27	2	0	31	0	0	29	0	0	55
56	30	0	0	32	0	0	30	0	0	56
57	33	3	7	34	0	0	31	0	0	57
58	35	0	0	36	0	0	32	0	0	58
59	35	0	45	39	0	0	34	2	0	59
60	38	0	0	42	0	0	36	0	0	60

THE INSCRIPTIONS

ON THE

CHURCH BELLS OF BEDFORDSHIRE,

With the Diameter at the mouth of each bell, from which its approximate weight may be ascertained (see opposite page). To which are added Extracts, where procurable, from the Commissioners' Returns *temp.* Edward VI., and from Parochial and other Records, together with Local Traditions, Notices of Donors, etc., etc.

Note.—The numbers between [ ] *refer to the woodcuts worked into the letterpress. It being impossible to reproduce here the various forms of mediæval Gothic letters found on the ancient bells, one form of letter is used to indicate where Gothic capitals are found* [𝔄 𝔅 ℭ] *and one form where small Gothic, or "black letter," is found* [𝔞 𝔟 𝔠]. *For the various forms of Roman letters found on modern bells, one form* [A B C] *will suffice.*

Errors of spelling, misplacement of letters, etc., etc., in the following Inscriptions, are copied literally from the Bells. They are therefore Founders' blunders, and not Printers' mistakes.

A reference to the pages given after the name of each Parish in the Index will supply, in most instances, information as to the uses of the Church Bells therein.

A similar reference to the pages given after the name of each Foundry or Founder, will furnish some particulars respecting it or him.

AMPTHILL.

S. Andrew. 5 Bells.

1. IHS NAZARENE REX JUDÆORUM FILI DEI MISERERE MEI ✠ GLORIA DEO SOLI ✠ A ·. · DOM O 1725 O.
(Diam. 31 in., height 23 in.)

2. T: B: STONE & I: KIRK C: WARDENS I: BRIANT HERTFORD FECIT 1811.
(Diam. 31 in., height 24½ in.)

3. CHRISTOPHER GRAYE MADE ME 1665.
(Diam. 35 in., height 26 in.)

4. DAVID BRODIE ESQ.
O CHURCHWARDENS O.
JOHN LEACH
CHARLES WHEELER WILLIAM JONES.
WILLIAM EMMERTON OF WOOTTON MADE ME 1768.
(Diam. 40 in., height 30 in.)

5. IHS NAZARENUS REX JUDÆORUM FILI DEI MISERERE MEI ✠
GLORIA PATRI FILIO ET SPIRITUI SANCTO T: EAYRE. KETT. 1725.
(Diam. 4½ in., height 32 in.)

ARLESEY.

S. Peter. 6 Bells.

1—5. J. WARNER & SONS FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1877.

		cwt.	*qr.*	*lb.*	
1.	Diam. 28 in., weight	5	1	24,	Note E.
2.	Diam. 30 in., weight	5	2	25,	Note D.
3.	Diam. 32 in., weight	6	1	24,	Note C.
4.	Diam. 34 in., weight	7	0	10,	Note B.
5.	Diam. 36 in., weight	7	3	19,	Note A.

6. THIS BELL IS GIVEN BY REV. RICHD. FOLLIOT SCOTT, M.A., VICAR OF ARLESEY, IN MEMORY OF HIS GRANDFATHER, JAMES CURTIS, ESQ., B.C.S.

G. HAWKES
J. C. DAVIES } CHURCHWARDENS.

[*Donor's ▽ Arms*].

(Diam. 39½ in., weight 10 cwt. 3 qr. 15 lb., Note G.)

The ancient spire of this church fell in the early part of the last century, and the story is that the people then sold the ring of bells, according to the distich current in the neighbourhood :—

"Arlesey, Arlesey, naughty people,
Sold their bells to build their steeple,"

but did not so expend the money.

The tradition at Arlesey is that their bells went to the neighbouring village of Shillington, but that is not correct, as we learn from the Shillington bells, and also from an account made by Browne Willis of the expenses attending the recasting of the bells, and augmenting the ring, at Bletchley, in Buckinghamshire, in the year 1712. In that year the five bells there were taken down, and with "eighteen hundredweight of additional metal (which cost, with the carriage of it from Arlesey in Bedfordshire to Bletchley, with other expenses in bringing it, £65 16s.) were delivered to Mr. Abraham Rudhall, of Gloucester," bellfounder, who recast the whole into a new ring of eight bells.*

It appears from this transaction that the Arlesey bells were broken when the spire fell. This is rendered more evident by the fact that in the wooden erection, shortly afterwards put up, the parishioners did not place one of the bells belonging to the old ring—which they probably would have done had one been in a sound condition—but a new one, which was inscribed :—

Henry Russell of Wootton made me 1714.

This single bell, which weighed 5 cwt. 1 qr. 6 lb., was the only bell hanging here from the time of the loss of the ancient ring until—a new tower having

* *Notes and Queries*, 1 S. xii. 60.

been built at the cost of the widow of the late S. Bedford Edwards, Esq.—the present bells were hung in the year 1877. They were purchased by subscription, and cost £480. The new ring was opened by six members of the ancient Society of College Youths, on the 27th of June, 1877, on which occasion the new tower was also consecrated by the Lord Bishop of Ely.

Mr. Curtis, to whose memory the tenor bell was given, was patron of the living. The arms under the inscription are those of the donor—the present vicar—three Catherine wheels in a bordure engrailed.

ASPLEY GUISE.

S. Botolph. 6 Bells.

1—5. JOHN TAYLOR & CO. BELLFOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH 1883.

6. TO THE GLORY OF GOD. J. C. MALTBY M.A. RECTOR G. A. D. MAHON. W. SMITH CHURCHWARDENS APRIL 1883. JOHN TAYLOR & CO. BELLFOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH.

The weights of these Bells are :—

	cwt.	*qr.*	*lb.*
1.	3	0	0
2.	3	3	11
3.	4	2	27
4.	5	2	9
5.	7	0	1
6.	10	0	11
Total	34	1	3

The previous ring consisted of four bells only, which were inscribed :—

1. Thomas Russell of Wootton [made] mee 1715.
(Weight, 4 cwt. 1 qr. 18 lb.)

2. Who made thee Chandler made me 1654.
(Weight, 5 cwt. 3 qr. 0 lb.)

3. G. Mears & Co. Founders London 1861.
(Weight, 6 cwt. 3 qr. 23 lb.)
4. C. & G. Mears founders London 1850.
(Weight, 7 cwt. 1 qr. 15 lb.)

These four bells were, to use a ringer's report, "a bad lot, both as regards gear and tone; they are not of *one family*." The previous 3rd bell was cracked, and so had to be recast in the year 1861; and the previous tenor fell out of the gudgeons and was cracked, when one "Will Brown" was ringing the Sermon-bell on a Sunday morning. It had a narrow escape of being again broken on its return from the founders, for, the task of rehanging it being entrusted to John Hewlatt, of Aspley, and he attempting to raise it by a rope too weak for the purpose, the bell fell upon the stone floor when above fifteen feet high. Fortunately only a small piece was chipped off, the sound not being materially altered.

The new bells were dedicated by a special service on Tuesday, 29th of May, 1883. There are some useful rules for the guidance of the ringers.

ASPLEY GUISE [District Church].

This modern District Church has one small bell, cast by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank in 1868.

ASTWICK.

S. Guthlac. 1 Bell.

The single bell here (which is traditionally believed to have been stolen from Stotfold) is so difficult of access that I am reluctantly compelled to leave it undescribed.

BARFORD GREAT.

All Saints. 5 Bells.

1. GLORIA DEO IN EXCELSIS 1630
[U 39].
(Diam. 32½ in., height 27 in.)

2. DANIEL GOVLDSMITH. CLERICVS. GVLIELMVS CARTER. GEN. 1636 [▽ 39].
(Diam. 33½ in., height 26 in.)

3. GVLIELMVS CLARKE ET GEORGIVS FLAVEL GARDIANI 1636 [▽ 39].
(Diam. 35½ in., height 28½ in.)

4. IH'Σ : NAZARENVS : REX JVDEORVM : FILI : DEI : MISERERE : MEI : 1636 [▽ 39].
(Diam. 39½ in., height 31 in.)

5. STATVTVM EST OMNIBVS SEMEL MORI 1637 [▽ 39].
(Diam. 43½ in., height 34 in.)

For the Stamp on these bells see p. 60. For letters used on 1st and 5th, see p. 59, for those on 4th, see p. 63.

This is a fine ring of uniform bells from the foundry of Hugh Watts, of Leicester.

The Parish Register tells us that "Daniel Gouldsmyth [see 2nd bell] was endowed with the Vicarage of Barford in the yeare of our Lord 1635." He signs the Register until the year 1644, when the writing changes, and the entries are made in English. There is no entry of his burial.

We also learn from the Register that William Carter [see 2nd bell] was churchwarden in 1633 and 1634. After the entries of the baptism of three children (1630, 1632, 1634), we find that of his daughter Elizabeth on the 3rd of September, 1637, and six days after (9th of September) the record of the burial of his first wife, Anna, "pulcherrima, amantissima, suavissima." He himself was buried on the 5th of September, 1644.*

BARFORD LITTLE.

S. DENYS OR S. MARY. 4 BELLS.

1. RICHARD CHANDLER MADE ME 1681.
(Diam. 26½ in., height 19½ in.)

---

* For these notes from the Registers I am indebted to the Rev. C. Greene.

2. CHRISTOPHER GRAYE MADE ME 1661.
(Diam. 27½ in., height 20 in.)

3. Blank.
(Diam. 29 in., height 21 in.)

4. JOHN GAMBLE MINISTER. EDWARD PECK CHURCH-WARDEN 1759.
(Diam. 30½ in., height 24 in.)

The Rev. John Gamble (see tenor bell) was inducted to this benefice in March, 1733, and died in 1763.

BARTON-LE-CLAY.

S. Nicolas. 5 Bells.

1, 2, 3. [+ 1] BE . YT . KNOWNE . TO . ALL . THAT . DOTH . ME SEE . THAT . NEWCOMBE . OF . LEICESTER . MADE . MEE . 1604.
(1. Diam. 34 in., height 27 in.
2. Diam. 36½ in., height 27 in.
3. Diam. 39 in., height 31 in.)

4. + RUSSELL OF WOOTON MADE ME 1743 + ROBERT HURST AND RICHARD CROUCH CHURCHWARDENS.
(Diameter 42½ in., height 33 in.)

5. JOHN HALE RICHARD CROVCH C. W. 1622.
(Diam. 47 in., height 34 in.)

For Stamp on 1st see p. 41.

BATTLESDEN.

S. Peter and All Saints. 3 Bells.

1. Blank.
(Diam. 29½ in., height 22 in., cracked.)

2. THOMAS MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1813.
(Diam. 31 in., height 23 in.)

3. Blank.
(Diam. 33 in., height 29½ in.)

In 1552 "Batelysdene" possessed "Item ij hanbelles Item in the stepull of the seid churche iij Belles."*

The treble bell, being cracked, is not now used.

Close to the church is Battlesden House, a handsome modern structure, built upon the site of a previous mansion, formerly the residence of Sir Saunders Duncombe, and subsequently of Lord Bathurst. Here is a clock which strikes upon a bell which belonged to the former house. The bell, which hangs on the roof of the house, is in ringable order, having a wheel, rope, etc. It is inscribed:—

ANTHONY BARTLETT MADE MEE 1674.

(Diam. 21 in., height 18 in.)

and bears the founder's stamp of Thomas Bartlett.

BEDFORD.

S. Paul. 8 Bells.

1. MEARS & STAINBANK. FOUNDERS. LONDON.
MICHAEL FERRABEE SADEL, RVICAR.
JOHN MASON CUTHBERT } CHURCHWARDENS. 1868.
JOHN TRAPP }
(Diam. 31 in., height 24 in.)

2, 4. THOMAS LESTER MADE ME 1744.
(Diams. 31½ and 37 in., heights 26 and 30½ in.)

3. MEARS & STAINBANK. FOUNDERS. LONDON.
(Diam. 37 in., height 26 in.)

---

* *Land Revenue Records*, Bundle 1392, File 2, P.R. Off.

5. BY A SUDDEN FALL MY SUBSCRIBERS DID SUPPRISE BUT NOW AM COME TO PLEASE THEIR LISENING EARS AND EYES. T. L. 1744.

(Diam. 42 in., height 34 in.)

6. THOS. LESTER MADE ME.

(Diam. 45 in., height 35 in.)

7. THOS. LESTER OF LONDON MADE ME 1744.

(Diam. 49 in., height 35 in.)

8. JOHN RUSSELL MAYOR. THOMAS RICHARDS JAMES BRADLEY CHURCHWARDENS 1744. THOMAS LESTER OF LONDON MADE US ALL.

(Diam. 52 in., height 41 in., weight 27 cwt.)

Prior to 1744 there were five bells only.

The ring of eight bells was opened in the spring of 1745, as is shown by the following extract from the minutes of a meeting of the Common Council held on the 19th of April in that year:—

> "It is voted ordered and agreed unto at this Court of Common Council That the Chamberlains of this Corporation shall pay amongst eight men that shall come from Saint Michael, Cornhill, London, the sum of six guineas for their trouble in ringing the new Peal of Eight Bells which are hung up in the steeple of the Parish Church of Saint Paul in this Town."

The treble has been an unfortunate bell: it was cast with the others in 1744, and inscribed:—

> "At proper times my Voice I'll raise and sound to my subscribers praise 1744. Thomas Lester made me,"

cracked, and recast by Lester and Chapman in 1755, and again cracked, and recast, as above, in 1868.

The old chimes here having been long silent, a new machine was erected by Messrs. Gillett and Bland in 1879, through the exertions of Mr. Elger. It consists of two barrels, each playing seven tunes—three sacred and four secular. The new carillon machine was opened with a religious service on New Year's Day, 1880. The following inscription, engraved on a plate, records this acceptable addition to the belfry:—

> "The purchase by public subscription, and the erection of these chimes in this Tower of the Parish Church of Saint Paul, Bedford, were

originated by Thomas Gwyn Empy Elger, Esquire, during his Mayoralty in the year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ 1879."

The Rev. M. F. Sadler (see 1st bell) resigned on the 13th of March, 1870.

BEDFORD.

S. Peter. 5 Bells and a Clock Bell.

1. TV INTONAS DE CŒLIS. VOX CAMPANÆ MICHAELIS ITERVM FVSÆ. A.D. MDCCCXXV. PHILIPPO HVNT. LLD. ECCL. DIV. PETRI RECTORE GVLIELMO BROWN THOMA SMALL ÆDITVIS.
(Diam. 24 in., height 21 in.)

2. GOD SVAЭ THЭ NIWG 1ɔ5o.
(Diam. 24 in., height 22½ in., piece cut out, originally cracked).

3. ABCDE FGHIK LMNO 1609 [U 39].
(Diam. 26 in., height 21½ in.)

4. HOC SIGNUM PETRI PVLSATVR NOMINE CHRISTI FVSVM. A.D. MDCCCXXV. GVLIELMO BROWN. THOMA SMALL ÆDITVIS PHILIPPO HVNT. LLD. ECCL. D. PETRI. RECTORE.
(Diam. 30 in., height 23 in.)

5. THOMAS GROVES AND JOHN LANGFORD CHVRCH-WARDENS. THOMAS RVSSELL OF WOOTTON MADE ME 1733.
(Diam. 32½ in., height 24 in.)

Clock Bell:—

RIC. CHANDLER MADE ME 1701.
(Diam. 16½ in., unhung, no clapper).

For Stamp, see p. 60. For specimens of letters used on 3rd, see p. 59.

The Rev. Philip Hunt (see 1st and 4th bells) was presented to the living in 1799, and died in 1835.

The inscription on the second bell is curious and noteworthy. The Commonwealth was declared on the 19th of May, 1649, but here we have a bell cast in the following year bearing the loyal inscription, 'God save the King.'

The letters are placed, many of them, upside down, and it has been suggested that the Royalist founder so placed them in order that the ignorant might not readily read the inscription, and so not notice the expression of his

sentiments. Such blunders, however, are not uncommon on bells (Elstow, 4th bell, and Old Warden 2nd, both in this county, are examples). Probably the casting of the bell was so near to the declaration of the Commonwealth, and the state of public opinion was still so unsettled, that the founder ventured on one of his old and favourite inscriptions.

The small bell was formerly used as a clock-bell, and now shows the hammer-marks on the outside. It probably hung in a small bell turret, which was formerly on the top of the tower.

BEDFORD.

S. Mary. 6 Bells and a Priest's Bell.

1. † J : EAYRE. ST NEOTS O 1748 + + J : ACHURCH. BROMSALL. C.W.
(Diam. 24 in., height 21 in.)

2. RICHARD CHANDLER MADE ME 1682.
(Diam. 24 in., height 21 in.)

3. NEWCOMBE OF LEICESTER MADE MEE 1604.
(Diam. 25 in., height 20 in.)

4. [▽ 17. ▽ 19. ▽ 18 O ▽ 14. ▽ 20.]
(Diam. 27 in., height 21 in.)

5. RICHARD CHANDLER MADE ME. 1682.
(Diam. 30½ in., height 23 in.)

6. ABCDE FGHIK LMNO 1609 [▽ 39].
(Diam. 30 in., height 24 in.)

Priest's Bell :—

1750.
(Diam. 13 in.)

For Stamps, see pp. 50, 51 and 60, and for letters used on 6th bell, see p. 59.

BEDFORD.

S. John Baptist. 1 Bell.

1. T. Mears of London Fecit 1827.
John Green Amos, John Woodward } Churchwardens.
(Diam. 31 in., height 25 in.)

It is said that the present bell replaced one which was cracked whilst being rung—it must have been a sorry peal—for Colonel McQueen's election for the county.

BEDFORD.

S. Cuthbert. 1 Bell.

1. T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1831.
(Diam. 24 in.)

BEDFORD.

Holy Trinity. 1 Bell.

1. JOHN TAYLOR, BELLFOUNDER, 1840.
GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH.
(Diam. 30 in., height 22 in.)

BIDDENHAM.

S. James. 6 Bells.

1. BE LIGHT AND GLAD IN GOD REJOICE EMMERTON FECIT 1787.
(Diam. 29½ in., height 22 in.)
2. EMMERTON CAST THIS PEAL 1787.
(Diam. 30 in., height 24 in.)
3. EMMERTON FECIT 1787.
(Diam. 32 in., height 25 in.)
4. WILLIAM EMMERTON OF WOOTTON 1787.
(Diam. 33½ in., height 25½ in.)
5. EMMERTON FECIT 1787. Five old Bells cast into six at the expence of Mr. John Brooks.
(Diam. 37 in., height 27 in.)
6 BLESSED IS THE NAME OF THE LORD EMMERTON OF WOOTTON FECIT 1787.
(Diam. 42 in., height 30 in.)

In 1521 Isabella Low left, by her will, "to the bellys iiij*d.*" * Captain John Brooks, R.N. [see 5th bell], who resided in this parish, expended a considerable sum of money upon the bells and the restoration of the church. He died in 1793 at his brother's house in London, and was buried at Manningtree, in Essex.

Prior to 1787 there were only five bells, see 5th bell.

BIGGLESWADE.

S. Andrew. 5 Bells.

1. RVSSELL MADE ME 1721.
   (Diam. 30½ in., height 25½ in.)
2. RVSSELL MADE VS 1721.
   (Diam. 31½ in., height 26 in.)
3. THOMAS RVSSELL OF WOOTTON MADE ME 1721.
   (Diam. 34½ in., height 28 in.)
4. THOMAS RVSSELL OF WOOTTON CAST THIS RING 1721.
   (Diam. 36 in., height 29 in.)
5. JOHN LANCASTER AND GEORGE COOPER CHURCH-WARDENS. R : TAYLOR. S^{T} NEOTS. FECIT 1806.
   (Diam. 43 in., height 30 in.)

BILLINGTON.

? 1 Bell.

The single bell here—which was reached with great difficulty—is without inscription or stamp of any kind: it is 23 inches in diameter. It formerly hung in a wooden belfry, which was removed about the year 1860, and replaced by the present stone turret, which was brought from the old church of Linslade in Buckinghamshire.

BLETSOE.

S. Mary. 5 Bells.

1. I MEAN TO MAKE IT UNDERSTOOD THAT THO' I'M LITTLE YET I'M GOOD.
   R : TAYLOR S^{T} NEOTS FECIT 1786.
   (Diam. 32½ in., height 24 in.)

---

* Mr. Hervey's *Willey Hundred*, p. 19.

2. WHILST THUS WE JOIN IN CHEERFULL SOUND LET LOVE AND LOYALTY ABOUND.
R. TAYLOR S[T] NEOTS FECIT. 1786.
(Diam. 34½ in., height 25½ in.)

3. YE PEOPLE ALL THAT HEAR US RING BE FAITHFULL TO YOUR GOD AND KING.
R : TAYLOR S[T] NEOTS FECI APRL 4 1786.
(Diam. 35 in., height 27 in.)

4. I TO THE POOR AND NEEDY AM A FRIEND : FOR WHOSE RELIEF I CALL YOU TO ATTEND : J : COLES & N : KING C : WARDENS R : TAYLOR. FECIT : 1786.
(Diam. 38 in., height 27½ in.)

5. I TO THE CHURCH THE LIVING CALL AND TO THE GRAVE DO SUMMON ALL. JOHN COLES & NICHOLAS KING CHURCHWARDENS. R. TAYLOR S[T] NEOTS FECIT.
(Diam. 42 in., height 30 in.)

BLUNHAM.

S. EDMUND. 5 BELLS.

1. HONORABILI VIRO DOMINO HENRIC. GRAYE MARIQUE UXORI EJUS BENE PRECATUR ARTIFEX 1580 RECAST 1752. J : SELLIS, M : TATMAN C.W.
(Diam. 35 in., height 28½ in.)

2. BE YT KNOWNE TO ALL THAT DOTH ME SEE THAT NEWCOME OF LEICESTER MADE MEE 1602.
(Diam. 36 in., height 29 in.)

3. [+ 1] BE YT KNOWNE TO ALL THAT DOTH ME SEE THAT NEWCOME OF LEICESTER MADE MEE ANNO DOMINO 1602.
(Diam. 40 in., height, 30 in.)

4. ABCDE FGHIK LMNOP QRST 1609 [▽ 39].
(Diam. 42 in., height 33 in.)

5. JOHN SELLIS, JUNER. AND WILLIAM TATMAN CHURCHWARDENS 1740.

JOHN SELLIS AND
MATTHEW TATMAN, JUNER. CHURCHWARDENS 1741

R. HANCOCKE RECTOR ○ ○ THOMAS RUSSELL OF WOOTTON MADE ME.

(Diam. 47 in., height 36 in.)

For Stamps, see pp. 41 and 60; and for specimens of letters used on the 4th bell, see p. 59.

The Churchwardens' Accounts have a few entries relating to the Bells :—

1712	Paid for Bear at a Ginerall met' when we Put the Bell to mend	00	05	00
1728	Paid at John Gillbarts for bear for the Ringers King Georg procleam[d]	00	01	00
	Paid for bear at John Gilbarts for the Ringers at King georges Crownation	00	02	06
1742	July 3 Paid M[r] Rushill for Runing the gret Bell	12	3	9
	Paid Will. Tatman caring the Bell	0	9	0
1752	Paid for Runing the Bell	8	18	0
	Paid for Caring the Bell	0	5	0

Henry Grey, the sixth Earl of Kent of that name (see 1st bell), was lord of the manor, and occasionally resided here. He married Mary, daughter of Sir John (or Sir George) Cotton, and widow of Edward, Earl of Derby. Dying in 1614-15, he was buried in an aisle of the church of Flitton in this county, erected by him in 1605, where is a monument, with effigies, to the memory of himself and his Countess. She, who died in 1580, was, however, not buried there, but at Great Gaddesden.

BOLNHURST.

S. DUNSTAN. 4 BELLS.

1. Blank.

(Diam. 28 in., height 21½ in.)

2, 3. John § dier § made § me § 1587.

(Diams. 29½ and 32½ in., heights 23 and 25 in.)

4. PRAISE YE THE LORD A° 1618.

(Diam. 36 in., height 26 in.)

BROMHAM.

S. Owen [or S. Andrew]. 6 Bells.

1. + THOMAS RVSSELL OF BIDDENHAM AND WILLIAM RVSSELL OF WOOTTON MADE ME IN 1739 O O.
(Diam. 35 in., height 26 in.)

2. R. TAYLOR & SONS FOUNDERS MDCCCXXVI.
(Diam. 39 in., height 28 in.)

3. CHANDLER MADE ME 1686. GVLIELMVS TVCKER, VIC.
(Diam. 40 in., height 29 in.)

4. GIVEN BY THOMAS LORD TREVOR IN THE YEAR 1739. THOMAS RVSSELL OF BIDDENHAM AND WILLIAM RVSSELL OF WOOTON MADE ME.
(Diam. 41 in., height 30 in.)

5. C. & G. MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON 1859.
(Diam. 42 in., height 31 in.)

6. CHANDLER MADE ME 1686 LODOVICVS DYVE ARMIG.
M D (*these two letters are incised.*)
(Diam. 43 in., height 35 in.)

The family of Dyve (see 6th bell) acquired the estate at Bromham by marriage from that of Wylde. Sir John Dyve, who died in 1608, left one surviving child, Sir Lewis Dyve, who, dying in 1669, left three sons; the eldest, Francis, died without issue in 1685, leaving his next brother, Lewis—whose name is on the tenor bell—his heir. He probably was a benefactor to, or was the donor of, the bell on his accession to the property. He died shortly afterwards, on the 1st January, 1686-7, and was buried at Bromham, where the tombstone records his decease:—

> Here lyeth interred y^e^ body of Cap^t^. Lewis Dyve y^e^ son of Sir Lewis Dyve who departed this life the j^st^ of Jan : 1686 at his house at Brumham in the County of Bedford, in y^e^ 46^th^ year of his age.

He left one son, Lewis, and two daughters. This Lewis, who appears from the Parish Register of Bromham to have been living there from 1700 to 1708, sold the family estate to Sir Thomas Trevor about the latter year. Sir Thomas

Trevor was, in 1711, created a peer by the title of Baron Trevor of Bromham, and, dying on the 1st July, 1730, was succeeded by the donor of the 4th bell.*

The Rev. William Tucker (see 3rd bell) was inducted 2nd July, 1684, and resigned in 1688.†

The bells were re-opened, after being newly hung, on 14th December, 1881.

CADDINGTON.

ALL SAINTS. 6 BELLS.

1. JOHN TAYLOR AND Cº. FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH MDCCCLXXXI.
   (Diam. 26¾ in., weight 4 cwt. 1 qr. 0 lb.)
2. DAN. GAZLEY & JOHN ASLIN. CHAPMAN & MEARS OF LONDON FECERUNT 1782.
   (Diam. 29 in., height 23 in.)
3. JOHN ADAMS & ROBT. STOCKLEY. CHAPMAN & MEARS OF LONDON FECERUNT 1782.
   (Diam. 30 in., height 24 in.)
4. JOHN SMITH FRANCIS SMART CHURCH WARDENS 1809.
   THOMAS MEARS & SON OF LONDON FECIT.
   (Diam. 35 in., height 29 in.)
5. CHAPMAN & MEARS OF LONDON FECERUNT 1782.
   (Diam. 34 in., height 27 in.)
6. JOHN SMITH FRANCIS SMART CHURCH WARDENS T MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1819.
   (Diam. 38 in., height 30 in.)

The treble bell was previously inscribed :—

Thoˢ. Byrchman Junʳ. Chapman & Mears of London Fecerunt 1782.

On the bell-frame is cut :—

▱ THOMAS ▱ HALLSEY
EDWARD AYDEL—CHVRCH WARDENE
IOHN TOMES BELL HANGER.

The Churchwardens' Accounts show that £87 was expended in 1782, and £31 9*s.* 6*d.* in 1809, about the bells.

---

* See *Gent. Mag.* XCIX. (1829), pp. 20, 124, 202, 321.

† Mr. Hervey's *Willey Hundred*, p. 39.

The bells here have been "clocked"—not rung—for some years past. Now the treble is recast it is hoped that a practice so dangerous to the bells will be abandoned.

CAMPTON.

ALL SAINTS. 4 BELLS.

1. R C. 1700.
(Diam. 28 in., height 19 in.)
2. Sancti Paule Ora Pro Nobis [+ 3 ∪ 2].
(Diam. 29½ in., height 23 in.)
3. Sancte Andree Ora Pro Nobis [+ 4 ∪ 2].
(Diam. 32½ in., height 25 in.)
4. PRAISE THE LORDE 1603 [∪ 39].
(Diam. 35 in., height 27 in.)

For Stamps, see pp. 43, 45 and 60. The initials on the 1st are those of the founder—Richard Chandler. The capitals on the 2nd and 3rd are crowned. For specimens of the letters on the 4th, see p. 59.

CARDINGTON.

S. MARY. 8 BELLS.

1. GLORIA DEO IN EXCELCIS EX DONO SAMS WHITBREAD EDWD ARNOLD ST NEOTS AND LEICESTER FECIT.
(Diam. 30 in., height 25 in.)
2. EX DONO SAMS WHITBREAD ARMIG. JAN. XVIII. MDCCLXXV ÆTAT XXI.
EDWD ARNOLD ST NEOTS AND LEICESTER FECIT.
(Diam. 31½ in., height 25 in.)
3. SAMUEL WHITBREAD OF CARDINGTON ESQR GAVE THIS BELL ANNO 1772 PACK AND CHAPMAN OF LONDON FECIT. 6 . 2 . 0.
(Diam. 32 in., height 25 in.)
4. WHILST THUS WE JOIN IN CHEERFULL SOUND MAY LOVE AND LOYALTY ABOUND. PACK AND CHAPMAN LONDON FECIT 1772. 7 . 2 . 4.
(Diam. 34 in., height 27 in.)
5. PEACE AND GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD PACK AND CHAPMAN OF LONDON FECIT 1772. 9 . 1 . 18.
(Diam. 38 in., height 28 in.)

6. Ye Ringers All That Prize Your Health and Happiness Be Sober Merry Wise and You'll the same Possess Pack and Chapman of London 1772.
(Diam. 39 in., height 30 in.)

7. In Wedlock all Ye Who Join With Hands Your Hearts Unite So Shall our Tunefull Tongues Combine to Laud the Nuptial Rite Pack and Chapman of London Fecit 1772. 13 . 3 . 13.
(Diam. 43 in., height 31 in.)

8. Revd Inº Pemberton Vicar Thoˢ Pack and Richard Stevenˢ Cʰ Wardens Jnº Howard Esqʳ Jnº Nesbitt Esqʳ Samˡ Whitbread Esqʳ Jnº Peck Esqʳ Jonᴬ Cranfield Thoˢ Wilson Edmond and Mathew Morgan Inº Hickman Allen Brown Parish Clerk Pack and Chapman of London Fecit 1772. 20 . 1 . 12.
(Diam. 46 in., height 36 in.)

Prior to 1775, when the present 1st and 2nd bells were given, there were six bells only.

The Whitbread family settled here about the year 1650.* Mr. Samuel Whitbread, the donor of the 3rd bell—who was born at Cardington on the 20th August, 1720—purchased the manor of the representatives of George Blundell, Esq. He died on the 11th June, 1796, at Bedwell Park, Hertfordshire: a fine monument is placed in the church here to his memory. He was succeeded by his only son, the Samuel Whitbread, Esq., who gave the 2nd bell, and probably the treble also, on attaining his majority in the year 1775.

The Rev. John Pemberton—see tenor bell—died in 1776, and was buried here.

Amongst the names of benefactors on that bell is that of John Howard, the philanthropist. He purchased an estate here after the death of his second wife in 1765, adjoining that of his relative, Mr. Whitbread. He, as is well-known, died at Cherson, from fever, in 1790. By his will he desired that "a plain slip of marble may be placed under that of my late wife, containing an inscription of my name and the year that I died, with this motto—*Spes mea Christus.*" In accordance with this wish, there appears at the base of a tablet in the church here to the memory of his wife and of his only son these words:—

---

* Lyson's *Mag. Brit.* Vol. I. p. 65; see also *Gent. Mag.* LXVI. p. 531, and LXXI. p. 615.

JOHN HOWARD
Died at Cherson in Russian Tartary
January 21st. 1790 aged 64
" Christ is my Hope."

The house once belonging to and occupied by John Howard, still stands close to the church, and is now in the occupation of General Mills.

CARLTON.

S. MARY. 4 BELLS.

1. PRAISE THE LORDE 1602 [▽ 39.]
(Diam. 29 in., height 24 in.)

2. JOHN TAYLER & Co FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH 1868. W. S. ESCOTT RECTOR I. EYLES H KEEP, C.W. GLORY TO GOD COME UNTO ME.
(Diam. 32 in., height 23 in.)

3. [+32]. S MARTHE [▽ 33].
(Diam. 36 in., height 28 in.)

4. In Multis Annis Resonet Campana Johannis [□ 23 ▽ 24] ○ [□ 22].
(Diam. 38 in., height 30 in.)

For Stamps, see pp. 60, 56, 53 and 54. For specimens of letters used on the 1st bell, see p. 59. The capitals of the inscription on the 4th bell are crowned.

The Rev. W. S. Escott was instituted in 1861, resigned in 1876.

CHALGRAVE.

ALL SAINTS. 3 BELLS.

1. Sancte Necolae Ora Pro Nobis [□ 23.] ○ [□ 22].
(Diam. 35 in., height 30 in.)

2. [+54.] GOD [□ 58] SAVE [□ 58] OVR [□ 58] KING 1623.
(Diam. 37 in., height 30 in.)

3. WILLIAM EMERTON OF WOOTTON FECIT 1775.
WILLIAM WILLISON, WILLIAM SHAW } CHURCHWARDENS.
(Diam. 42 in., height 34 in.)

For Stamps, see pp. 53, 75 and 76. The capitals of the inscription on the 1st bell are crowned.

These bells are in a sad state of disorder; the clapper of the tenor bell is out, and now (1881) lies at the back door of the cottage of the woman who cleans the church. The bell-chamber, and indeed the whole tower, is in a very dilapidated condition; the bells have not been rung—only tolled by "clocking"—for some time, and rubbings of the inscriptions were obtained with great difficulty and some danger.

CHELLINGTON.

S. Nicholas. 4 Bells.

1. W. ATTON & SON MADE ◊ ME ◊ 1654.
(Diam. 28 in., height 23 in.)
2. [+ 56] PRAY . E YE THE LORD 1630.
(Diam. 29 in., height 24 in.)
3. W ATTON [+ 52] MADE [+ 52] MEE [+ 52] 1611 [+ 52] ROBERT ATTON.
(Diam. 31 in., height 24 in.)
4. Sancta Katerina Ora Pro Nobis I + O
(Diam. 33½ in., height 25 in.)

For Stamps, see pp. 75 and 73.

These bells are difficult and dangerous of access; the floor of the bell-chamber is all gone.

CLAPHAM.

S. Thomas à Becket. 5 Bells.

1. [+ 59] GOD [□ 60] SAVE THY [□ 60] CHURCH 1607.
(Diam. 24½ in., height 18 in.)
2. [+ 59] GOD [□ 60] SAVE THY [□ 60] ↄHAЯC 1607 [*a* □ *crown*].
(Diam. 26½ in., height 21½ in.)
3. John § dier § made § me §
(Diam. 27½ in., height 20½ in.)
4. RICHARD CHANDLER MADE ME 1685.
(Diam. 29 in., height 24 in.)
5. CHRISTOPHER GRAYE MADE ME 1662.
(Diam. 32 in., height 24 in.)

For Stamps, see pp. 76 and 77.

These bells—which were rehung in 1861—are not rung, in consequence of the roof of the tower being in a weak state; repairs have lately been effected, but more remains to be done.

CLIFTON.

ALL SAINTS. 8 BELLS AND 7 FOR CHIMES.

1, 2, 3, 5. ROBERT STAINBANK FOUNDER LONDON 1867.
(Diams. 23¼, 24, 26, 30½ in.)

4. T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1831.
(Diam. 28 in.)

6. BVT [□ 38] THER [□ 38] CONSERT [□ 38] IN [□ 38] MEWSIK [□ 38] 1590 W T W R IS [▽ 39].
(Diam. 32½ in., height 25 in.)

7. DOTH [□ 38] PLES [□ 38] WEL [□ 38] OVR [□ 38] CARE [□ 38] 1590 EG [▽ 39].
(Diam. 35½ in., height 27 in.)

8. WILLIAM [□ 38] WATES [□ 38] MADE [□ 38] VS [□ 38] IN [□ 38] ANNO [□ 38] DOMINE [▽ 39].
(Diam. 38 in., height 29½ in.)

Additional Bells for Chimes:—

1–4. MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1869.
(Diams. 17½, 18, 19, 20 in.)

5, 6. ROBERT STAINBANK FOUNDER LONDON 1867.
(Diams. 20½, 21½ in.)

7. IN MEMORIAM PATRIS OPTIMI, CARISSIMI, HANC CAMPANAM, CVM DECEM ALIIS POSVIT HENRICVS HVGO MILES MEARS & STAINBANK FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1869.
(Diam. 29½ in.)

For Stamps, see p. 60; and for specimens of letters on 6th, 7th and 8th bells, see p. 59.

Prior to 1867 there were five bells only. Before two of those were recast the whole were, without doubt, of one date—1590—and bore inscriptions which, read consecutively, gave a jingling rhyme of five lines, of which the last three are now on the sixth, seventh and eighth bells. These three are fine bells, and good specimens of the work done at that period by the Watts family. The

letters used in the inscriptions are of the type engraved, as Figs. 34–37 on p. 59; the use, as usual, of the small black letter ꝟ in place of a large Gothic capital, which those founders did not possess, will be observed, and the letter S is reversed. The inscription on the tenor is incomplete, the date of the year being wanting.

In the year 1867 one of the five bells was recast, and five additional bells were added—one to the ring, thus making it a ring of six bells, and four were used for the "Cambridge Quarters," which were, in that year, added to the clock. In 1869 the five additional smaller bells were added, thus making in all fifteen bells; upon the ten least of these a chiming apparatus with two barrels, erected by Messrs. Gillett and Bland, of Croydon, played fourteen tunes—seven by each barrel. Two of these smaller bells were subsequently fitted with wheels, etc., and added to the ringable bells, so giving a ring of eight bells as at present, and as described above. The chimes are not now (1881) in working order. The cost of these extensive works in connection with the bells was defrayed by the present Rector, and his relatives, in memory of his father, the late Henry Miles, Esq., of Downfield, Herefordshire, who was patron of the living, and by whom the church was restored and handsome school buildings erected.

CLOPHILL.

S. Mary. 2 Bells.

1. EMMERTON OF WOOTTON FECIT 1774.
   THOMAS DUNTON, SAMUEL TAYLOR } CHURCHWARDENS ○ ○ ○ ○
   (Diam. 34 in., height 25 in.)
2. [+ 54] GOD [□ 58] SAVE [□ 58] OVR [□ 58] KING 1623.
   (Diam. 39 in., height 29 in.)

For Stamps, see pp. 75 and 76.

These bells were removed from the old church on the hill, where were three bells.

CLOPHILL [ANCIENT CHURCH].

S. Mary. 1 Bell.

There were three bells here: two were removed to the new church when it was erected, and one remains here, and is used as a funeral bell: it was the treble, or smallest of the three, and is simply inscribed:—

R C R C

The initials, most probably, of the founder, Richard Chandler.

COLMWORTH.

S. Denis. 4 Bells.

1. R C 4071.
(Diam. 30½ in., height 22½ in.)
2. R . C 1704.
(Diam. 33½ in., height 25½ in.)
3. [+ 55] GOD SAVE OVR KING [I K 53] 1635.
(Diam. 35 in., height 27 in.)
4. [+ 56] PRAYE YE THE LORD [I K 53] 1635.
(Diam. 38 in., height 29½ in.)

For Stamps, see p. 75.

The initials on the 1st and 2nd bells are those of the founder, Richard Chandler. James Keene, the founder of the 4th bell, appears to have omitted the letter S from the first word of the inscription, which he, doubtless, intended to have been "Prayse."

COPLE.

All Saints. 5 Bells.

1. GOD SAVE OVR KING 1628.
(Diam. 29 in., height 23 in.)
2. Blank.
(Diam. 29½ in., height 24 in.)
3. BELIEVE BE WISE AND RETURN REMEMBER TO DIE : I : EAYRE S^{T}. NEOTS FECIT 1762.
(Diam. 33 in., height 26½ in.)
4. [+ 15] Fydelis Mesuris Nomen Campana Mykaelys [▽ 14 ▽ 16].
(Diam. 36 in., height 27 in.)
5. [+ 55] GOD SAVE OVR KING 1624.
(Diam. 36½ in., height 28 in.)

For Stamps, see pp. 50 and 75.

As to the inscription on the 4th bell, the Rev. J. T. Fowler, F.S.A., suggests that as it stands it may be, "Michael's bell is (my) name, (I am) true in (my) measures" (dimensions or tone); but that something seems to be missing, and "Fydelis" clearly ought to rhyme with "Mykaelis."

CRANFIELD.

SS. Peter and Paul. 5 Bells and a Priest's Bell.

1. [□ 64] JEFERY [□ 64] ALDRIGE [□*] THOMAS [□ 64] FEILD [□ 64] CHVRCHWARDENS [□ 64] W H [□*] JOHN [□ 64] HODSON [□ 64] MADE [□*] ME [□ 64] 1663 [□ 64].

Royal ▽ *Arms.*

(Diam. 35 in., height 26 in. *Fleur-de-lys).

2, 3. NEWCOME OF LEICESTER MADE ME A° 1611.

(Diams. 36, 39 in., heights 26½, 28 in. Cannons off 3rd.)

4. T. Mears of London Fecit 1833.

William Faldor, John Langston } Churchwardens.

(Diam. 42½ in., height, 29½ in.)

5. TAYLOR . FOUNDER . Sᵀ NEOTS 1805 GEO. DAVIES RECTOR. JAMES OSBORNE & W FALDOR CHURCHWARDENS.

(Diam. 47 in., height 33½ in.)

Priest's Bell:—

Blank.

(Diam. 15½ in., height 10 in.)

For Stamps, see p. 81.

The Inventory of Goods belonging to this parish in 1552 is extant, but it is much mutilated; it, however, shows the following as to the bells then existing:—

. . . . . Church iiij belles & a sanc' bell the wey . . . . .
second xjc. thyrd xvc the fourth x . . . . . Church . . . .
. . . . . of latten wᵗ iij small belles ij crosses of
latten etc.*

The Rev. George Davies, B.D. (see tenor), died 22nd August, 1809, aged 60 years.

The bells here are good and in good condition.

DEAN.

All Saints. 3 Bells.

1. HUGH WAITES MADE ME 1603 [▽ 39].

(Diam. 32½ in., height 24 in.)

---

* *Land Revenue Records.* Bundle 1392, File 2. P. R. Off.

2. [+ 59] T DOLTON C W TOBIE ꟻORRIS CAST ME 1677.
(Diam. 35 in., height 28 in.)

3. ABCDEFG HIKLMN OPQRSTV 1610.
(Diam. 39½ in., height 30½ in.)

For Stamps, see pp. 60 and 76.

The inscriptions on the 1st and 3rd bells are in the fine Gothic capitals used by the Watts family; specimens are engraved on p. 59.

The tower is now in a dangerous condition.

DUNSTABLE.

SS. Peter and Paul. 8 Bells.

1. Altho I am Both Light & Small I will be Heard Above You All. Pack & Chapman of London Fecit 1776.
(Diam. 30 in., height 24 in.)

2. If you have a Judicious Ear You'll own my Voice is Sweet and Clear Pack & Chapman of London Fecit 1776.
(Diam. 31½ in., height 24 in.)

3. Pack & Chapman of London Fecit 1776.
(Diam. 33½ in., height 25 in.)

4. Whilst thus we Join in Chearfull Sound Let Love & Loyalty abound Pack & Chapman of London Fecit 1776.
(Diam. 36½ in., height 26 in.)

5. Peace & Good Neighbourhood. Pack & Chapman of London Fecit 1776.
(Diam. 37½ in., height 28½ in., cracked.)

6. Music is Medicine to the Mind Pack & Chapman of London Fecit 1776.
(Diam. 40 in., height 30 in., cracked.)

7. In Wedlock Bands All ye who Join with Hands Your Hearts Unite So shall our Tunefull Tongues Combine To Laud the Nuptial Rite Pack & Chapman of London Fecit 1776.
(Diam. 43½ in., height 32½ in., cracked.)

8. William Coles & William Eames Church Wardens Pack & Chapman of London Fecit 1776.
(Diam. 51 in., height 35 in., weight 20 cwt. 2 qr. 2 lb., cracked.)

Priest's Bell:—

[+ 31] AVE MARIA GRACIA PLENA.

For Stamp on Priest's bell, see p. 56.

From the *Chronicle of Dunstable*, commenced by Prior Richard de Morins in 1202, and carried on by his successors, we learn that in 1277 "Magister Michael" gave to this Priory Church "duas campanas grandiores," and that Henry his son gave another on the death of his father; and further, under the year 1349, "Tempore pestilentiæ parochiani de Dunstable fecerunt sibi unam campanam et vocabant eam Mariam et prior Rogerus commodavit plumbum ad cooperiendum campanile."

Prior to 1776, when the present ring was cast, there were five heavy bells.

The total weight of the present bells (exclusive of the Sanctus bell) is:—

	cwt.	qr.	lb.
	85	3	23
Clappers	2	0	9
Total	88	0	4

*

There is a tradition here, that at the consecration of the ancient Sanctus bell still hanging, "there was a gorgeous ceremonial at which Matilda, daughter of Malcolm, King of Scotland, acted as Godmother." Henry I. married Matilda, the daughter of Malcolm III., King of Scotland. She had, as is well known, been educated at the Abbey of Ramsey, in Huntingdonshire, which was then one of the principal Religious Houses in England. Henry was a great benefactor to Dunstable: he not only erected and richly endowed the Priory there—the nave of which now forms the parish church—but also built the palace of Kingsbury, where he and his wife Matilda would occasionally reside, and which afterwards (in 1204) became the property of the Prior and Convent. There is, therefore, nothing improbable in the tradition as to the benediction of the small Sanctus-bell, which may well have escaped the destruction or recasting of the larger bells, and so have come down uninjured to our time. But why is Matilda spoken of under her maiden name, and not as Queen of Henry I.?

DUNTON.

S. Mary. 2 Bells.

1. THOMAS MEARS FOUNDER LONDON 1839.

(Diam. 33½ in., height 25 in.)

* *Ex infor.* John Harris, Esq., C.E.

2. [+ 46] WHO SO EVER DOETH VS SEE WILLIAM HAVLSEY MAD ME 162[illegible].
(Diam. 35 in., height 28 in.)

For Stamp, see p. 68.

The second bell is not now used.

EATON BRAY.

S. Mary. 5 Bells & Small Bell.

1. EDWARD HALL MADE ME 1740.
(Diam. 34 in., height 28 in.)

2. RB TH EB EC WW 1656.
(Diam. 34 in., height 28 in.)

3. GEORGE CHANDLER MADE ME 1705.
(Diam. 37 in., height 31 in.)

4. WLM WHITTMORE FOR RICHARD BURR — AND — THO —HAWARD—EB—EC—1656.
(Diam. 40 in., height 30 in.)

5. J. BRIANT HARTFORD FECIT 1790 W. PEARSON MILLER...R. GADSDEN SEN[R] R. ASHWELL C. WARDENS H. MORRISS R. GADSDEN JUN[R] OVERSEERS.
(Diam. 43 in., height 33 in.)

Small Bell :—

1737.
(Diam. 19 in., height 18 in.)

These bells (1881) have been silent for some years; they are all sound, but the wheels and ropes are in disorder. The nave of the church is being restored, but the tower is in a dilapidated condition.

The small bell, upon which the clock formerly struck, is said to have once hung at the Manor House; it now hangs high up close to the window in the bell-chamber.

EATON SOCON.

S. Mary. 6 Bells.

1. OMNIA FIANT AD GLORIAM DEI JOS : EAYRE S[T] NEOTS FECIT ANNO : DOM : 1740.
(Diam. 32½ in., height 24 in.)

2. MILES .⁘. GRAYE .⁘. MADE .⁘. ME .⁘. 1654.
(Diam. 33½ in., height 24 in.)

3. WILLIAM DOBSON FOUNDER 1832 .⁘. JOHN ROBT. WALKER CHURCHWARDEN.
(Diam. 37½ in., height 27½ in.)

4. [+ 47] SOM [□ 49] ROSA [□ 49] PVLSATA [□ 49] MORDIA [□ 49] MARIA [□ 49] VOCATA 1607.
(Diam. 40 in., height 30 in.)

5. J BASSET VICAR J BELL J COANN THOMAS NEWMAN MADE MEE 1705.
(Diam. 43 in., height 31 in.)

6. + RVSSELL OF WOOTTON MADE ME 1741 ✡ ○○○○○ +
(Diam. 47½ in., height 35 in.)

For Stamps, see p. 69.

In 1552 there were here "V belles in ye stepyll and a sanctus bell." *

EDWORTH.

S. George. 3 Bells.

1. [+ 46] HEE THAT WIL BE MERI LET HIM BE MERI IN THE LORDE 1623.
(Diam. 31½ in., height 24½ in.)

2. NEWCOME MADE ME A° 1615.
(Diam. 33 in., height 26½ in.)

3. [+ 25] Sancta Maria Ora Pro Nobis [+ 27. ▽ 26].
(Diam. 36½ in., height, 28½ in.)

For Stamps, see pp. 68 and 54.

EGGINTON.

S. Michael (?). 2 Bells.

1. GOD SAVE OVR KING 1622.
(Diam. 18½ in.)

2. ANTHONY CHANDLER MADE ME 1677.
(Diam. 22 in.)

These are good bells, and the wheels are in good order, but the interior of

* *Land Revenue Records*, Bundle 1392, File 2, P. R. Off.

the cage is in a very dilapidated condition, and the floors require renewing. These defects it is hoped to remedy shortly.

ELSTOW.

SS. Mary and Helena. 5 Bells.

1. CHRISTOPHER ·⁝· GRAIE ·⁝· MADE ·⁝· ME ·⁝· 1655.
(Diam. 27 in., height 22 in.)

2. PRAISE THE LORD 1602 [▽ 39].
(Diam. 30 in., height 23 in.)

3. GOD SAVE THE KING 1631.
(Diam. 33 in., height 26 in.)

4. [+ 63] A B C D E ꟻ G [□*] V B C D E [□*] ꓤ S ⅃ Λ M [□*].
(Diam. 35 in., height 28 in. * Fleur-de-lys.)

5. [+ 1] BE YT KNOWNE TO ALL THAT DOTH ME SEE THAT NEWCOMBE OF LEICESTER MADE ME. 1604.
(Diam. 36 in., height 28 in.)

For Stamps, see pp. 60, 80 and 41.

The bells here hang in a campanile detached from the church.

The letters on the 2nd bell are of the type of those engraved on p. 59.

The 4th bell is the one pointed out as "Bunyan's bell." The writer of the great allegory, who lived in this parish, was, as is well-known, an enthusiastic ringer, until, in the strong revulsion from a careless life to a religious one, his then over-sensitive mind caused him to give up a practice which he doubtless felt that he loved too well. Even then the sound of the bells drew him to the belfry, although he no longer handled a rope. "He so hankered," writes Southey, "after his old amusement, that, though he did not pull a rope himself, he would go and look at the ringers, not without a secret feeling that to do so was unbecoming the religious character he professed; a fear came upon him that one of the bells might fall. To secure himself against such an accident he stood under a beam that lay athwart the steeple from side to side; but, his apprehensions being once awakened, he then considered that the bell might fall with a swing, hit the wall first, rebound, and so strike him in its descent. Upon this he retired to the steeple door, thinking himself safe enough there; for if the bell should fall he might slip out. Farther than the door he did not venture, nor did he long continue to think himself safe enough there, for the next fancy that possessed him was that the steeple itself might

fall, and this so much disturbed him that he dared not stand at the door any longer, but fled for fear the tower should come down upon him."

The intense love of bells and their music was, however, so engrained into his nature, that it finds expression more than once in his "Pilgrim's Progress," for as his pilgrims approached the Heavenly City, "they thought they heard all the bells therein to ring to welcome them thereto." And when they had entered, "then I heard, in my dream, that all the bells in the City rang again for joy."

"Well," (writes a recent visitor to Elstow) "the bell is here still, and the beam is here, and the tower; but the rugged, wistful face is gone. Here, nevertheless, his memory abides still, and many a fancy summons him up into a bodily presence again, and to many a listener the musical and melancholy peal has an added pathos from the fact that it still includes John Bunyan's bell."

EVERSHOLT.

S. John Baptist. 6 Bells.

1, 2, 4. MILES GRAIE ·⁘· FECIT ·⁘· 1638.
(Diams. 29½, 31½, 37 in., heights 23, 26, 28½ in.)

3. EMMERTON OF WOOTTON FECIT 1789.
John Daniel } Churchwardens.
William French }
(Diam. 34½ in., height 26 in.)

5. EMERTON OF WOOTTON CAST THIS PEAL T. WHITE. I. PURSER. CHURCH WARDENS. I TO THE CHURCH THE LIVING CALL AND TO THE GRAVE I SUMMON ALL 1786.
(Diam. 41½ in., height 28 in.)

6. JOHN TAYLOR & Co FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH 1882.
(Diam. 45¾ in., weight 17 cwt. 1 qr. 16 lb.)

In 1552 there were here :—
Item ij sacrynge belles
Item in the steapull iiij belles.*

The tenor bell was previously inscribed :—
Thomas Rvssell of Wootton made me 1727.
(Diam. 44 in., height 35 in.)

* *Land Revenue Records.* Bundle 1392. File 2. P.R.Off.

The statement of the founder of the 5th bell was rather wide of the truth.

These bells, which are in good condition and well cared for, form a very musical ring, and are considered by the people here as second only to those at Crawley. There is a tradition that Handel was once driving in the neighbourhood when these bells were ringing, and that he was so charmed with the beauty of the ring that he ordered his coachman to stop for several minutes in order that he might listen more attentively and enjoy the music more thoroughly.

A MS. book headed "Particulars of Eversholt," 1802, after noting that a plan of Eversholt was made on parchment in the year 1764, with a folio Reference Book, gives a corrected list of owners, tenants, etc., amongst which is :—Bell Rope acre, containing oa. 2r. 8p., then occupied by William Axam, under the Rev. John Sandys, Incumbent.

EYEWORTH.

ALL SAINTS. 2 BELLS.

1. [+ 6] Sancta Margareta Ora Pro Nobis [U 11].
(Diam. 32½ in., height 24 in.)

2. MILONEM GRAYE ME FECIT + 1632.
(Diam. 34½ in., height 27 in.)

For Stamps, see pp. 46 and 49.

There is a frame here for a third bell which has, apparently, been removed.

FANDISH.

S. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS. 3 BELLS.

1. CHRISTOPHER GRAYE MADE ME 1667.
(Diam. 22½ in.)

2. [I K 53 □ 58 □ 58 □ 58] 1625.
(Diam. 25 in.)

3. GVM GVM VUD PRA 1597 [U 39].
(Diam. 28 in.)

For Stamps, see pp. 75, 76 and 60.

In 1552 there were here "thre belles in the stepull and a sanctus belle."*

There was, until recently, a small bell, without inscription, unhung and standing in the church : it has been sold.

* *Exch. Q. R. Church Goods Bedfordshire* ½. P. R. Off.

FELMERSHAM.

S. Mary. 5 Bells.

1. IH'S NAZARENVS : REX : IVDEORUM : FILI : DEI : MISERERE MEI 1634 [▽39].
(Diam. 35 in., height 29 in.)

2, 4. NEWCOMBE MADE MEE 1617.
(Diams. 36½ and 43 in., heights 28 and 33 in.)

3 JOHN HUTCHINSON VICAR. WILLIAM BITHREY. ROBART LORD. CHURCHWARDENS. EAYRE Sᵀ NEOTS FECIT 1766.
(Diam. 39½ in., height 29 in.)

5. CUM UOCO UENITE. JOHN HUTCHINSON VICAR WILLIAM BITHREY ROBART LORD CHURCHWARDENS. JOSEPH EAYRE, Sᵀ NEOTS FECIT 1766.
(Diam. 47½ in., height 35½ in.)

For stamp and lettering on the 1st bell, see pp. 60 and 63.

The Rev. John Hutchinson (see 3rd and 5th bells) was presented to this living in January, 1756, and was buried here 15th July, 1792.

FLITTON.

S. John Baptist. 5 Bells.

1–5. RICHARD CHANDLER MADE ME 1687.
(1. Diam. 25½ in., height 22½ in.
2. Diam. 27 in., height 22½ in.
3. Diam. 28½ in., height 23 in.
4. Diam. 31 in., height 25 in.
5. Diam. 35 in., height 26½ in.)

FLITWICK.

SS. Peter and Paul. 5 Bells.

1. GOD SAVE OUR KING 1637 RECAST BY JOHN TAYLOR & Co. 1867.
(Diam. 30 in., height 22 in.)

2. Johannes Clarke hanc fecit Campanam 1608.
(Diam. 31 in., height 23 in.)

3. [+ 55] GOD SAVE OVR KING 1631 [I K 53].
(Diam. 34 in., height 25 in.)

4. MILES ·⁝· GRAYE MADE ME 1653.
(Diam. 35 in., height 25 in.)

5. MILES ·⁝· GRAYE ·⁝· MADE ·⁝· ME 1654.
(Diam. 39 in., height 29 in.)

For Stamps, see p. 75.

These are good bells, kept in excellent order.

GOLDINGTON.

S. Mary. 4 Bells.

1. GVM GVM AND PREYE 1600 [♡ 39].
(Diam. 28 in., height 25 in.)

2. RICHARD CHANDLER MADE MEE 1696.
(Diam. 29 in., height 26 in.)

3. NEWCOMBE MADE ME 1617.
(Diam. 30 in., height 28 in.)

4. GOD SAVE THE QUEENE 1600 [♡ 39].
(Diam. 33 in., height 31½ in.)

For Stamp and form of letters on the 1st and 4th bells, see pp. 59 and 60.

GRAVENHURST UPPER.

S. Giles. 5 Bells.

1, 2, 4. M G.
(Diams. 28, 30½, 35½ in., heights 22, 23, 28 in.)

3. RICHARD CHANDLER MADE ME 169℄.
(Diam. 32 in., height 24 in.)

5. ○ ○ JOSEPH CRAWLEY CHURCHWARDEN ○ ○ WILLIAM EMERTON OF WOOTTON MADE ME 1772.
(Diam. 39 in., height 30 in.)

The initials M. G. are probably those of Miles Graye the founder.

GRAVENHURST LOWER.

S. Mary [?]. 1 Bell.

1. THE LORD BE WITH US LESTER & PACK OF LONDON FECIT 1758.
(Diam. 28 in., height 22 in.)

HARLINGTON.

S. Mary. 5 Bells.

1. [□ 38] GOOM [□ 38] GOOM [□ 38] AND [□ 38] PRAIE [▽ 39].
(Diam. 29½ in., height 23½ in.)

2. JOHN TAPSTER CHVRCHWARDEN 1715 THOMAS RVSSELL MADE ME.
(Diam. 33 in., height 24½ in., cracked, unhung.)

3. CHANDLER MADE ME 1697.
(Diam. 35½ in., height 26 in.)

4. In Multis Annis Resonet Campana Johannis [+ 3 + 4].
(Diam. 38½ in., height 29½ in.)

5. WILLIAM [□ 38] WATTES [□ 38] MADE THIS BELL [▽ 39].
(Diam. 40½ in., height 32 in.)

For Stamps, see pp. 60 and 45, and for specimens of letters on the 1st and 5th, see p. 59. The letter S is reversed on the latter bell.

From the Inventory of Church Goods belonging to this church, taken on the 2nd of September, 1552, we learn there were then :—

"Item in ye stepull of ye said churche v belles and a saunce bell. The first bell in wydenes ij foote and vij ynches in depthe ij foote and one ynche the second bell ij foote and viij ynches in depthe ij foote the thurde bell ij fote wyde and ij foote depth ye fowerth bell iij foote wyde and ij fote depth and a di. ye vth bell iij foote and di. wyde ij foote and di. depe the saunce bell wyde xj ynche and ix ynche depe."*

The 2nd bell was cracked about twenty years ago, but she was rung with the others for some years afterwards: she now rests upon a wooden block; two of the bell-ropes hang close to the wall; this would have to be remedied should change-ringing be attempted. With these exceptions the bells—which are excellent in tone—are in good order.

HARROLD.

All Saints. 5 Bells.

1. THOMAS KNIGHT AND WILLIAM WOOTTON C : W : IOS : EAYRE St NEOTS 1756.
(Diam. 30½ in., height 26 in.)

---

* *Land Revenue Records.* Bundle 1392, File 2, P. R. Off.

2. GVM GVM AND PRAYE 1603 [▽ 39].
(Diam. 32 in., height 25 in.)

3. PRAISE THE LORDE 160ε [▽ 39].
(Diam. 34 in., height 26½ in.)

4. JOHN ⁘ HODSON ⁘ OF ⁘ LANDON ⁘ MADE ⁘ ME ⁘ 16ɛɛ.
(Diam. 37½ in., height 27½ in.)

5. CHANDLER MADE ME 1652 [□ 51].
(Diam. 39½ in., height 30 in.)

For Stamps, see pp. 60 and 71, and for specimens of letters on the 2nd and 3rd bells, see p. 59.

HATLEY COCKAYNE.

S. John Baptist. 2 Bells.

1. R. TAYLOR . Sᵀ NEOTS FECIT 1786.
(Diam. 33 in., height 24 in.)

2. RVSSELL OF WOOTTON MADE ME 1725.
(Diam. 34 in., height 25 in.)

HAWNES.

S. Mary. 4 Bells.

1. [+ 54] GOD [□ 58] SAVE [□ 58] OVR [□ 58] KING 1627.
(Diam. 25½ in., height 20 in.)

2. CHRISTOPHER GRAYE MADE ME 1662.
(Diam. 27 in., height 21 in.)

3. ƎIP ƎISSƎM SIRTAM + ƎIRAM ANAPMAC MVS
(Diam. 30 in., height 24 in.)

4. OG TT M M 1653.
(Diam. 31½ in., height 26 in.)

For Stamps, see pp. 75 and 76.

The inscription on the 3rd bell is reversed on the bell: it is "Sum campana Marie Matris Messie pie." The cross in the centre is apparently quite plain in character, but the bells being very difficult of access—there is no floor to the bell-chamber—it was not possible to take a "squeeze."

HEATH AND REACH.

S. Leonard. 1 Bell.

1. RICHARD WIGE GENT MAN ONER OF ME 1695
and incised on the top of the bell,
H
TOMAS SEPHEXS.
(Diam. 20 in., height 18 in.)

There is no stay or slider to this bell.

Heath was formerly a parochial chapelry attached to Leighton, and, until the year 1850, was without a burial ground, the dead being interred at Leighton. There, too, marriages and baptisms were formerly registered. The family of Wigge had for some years been connected with this neighbourhood when the above small bell was cast. In 1639 William Wigge, yeoman, purchased Stewkley Grange with its manor and appurtenances (it formerly belonged to Woburn Abbey). The family resided there, and occupied the farm for several generations, but eventually—in 1760—sold the property to a Mr. Ward. Members of the Wigge family were also connected with Mentmore. Another branch resided at Heath. The Registers at Leighton record the marriage of John Franks and Elizabeth Wigg, of Heath, on the 13th of May, 1703. She was a daughter of the "Richard Wige" whose name is on the above bell. The Registers give no information about him: possibly the bell belonged originally to his house as a dinner-bell—in which case he would be its "oner"—and was afterwards given by him to the chapel, where are two pewter alms dishes, dated 1698, which may also have been his gift at the same time.

HENLOW.

S. Mary. 5 Bells.

1. MILES ·⁝· GRAYE ·⁝· MADE ·⁝· ME ·⁝· 1630.
(Diam. 32 in., height 25 in.)

2. [+ 55] GOD SAVE OVR KING 1628.
(Diam. 34 in., height 26 in.)

3. MILES ·⁝· GRAIE ·⁝· FECIT ·⁝· 1638.
(Diam. 35 in., height 27 in.)

4. + THOMAS TRUSTRAM CHURCHWARDEN + CVM VOCO VENITE + J : EAYRE : ST. NEOTS + + 1750 +
(Diam. 39 in., height 29 in.)

5. 1638 RECAST 1877 W. HOLESGROVE VICAR.
CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON.
(Diam. 43 in.)

For Stamp, see p. 75.

The tenor bell was previously inscribed :—

Miles Graie fecit 1638 G E ⁘ G C.
(Diam. 42 in., height 34½ in.)

HIGHAM GOBION.

S. MARGARET. 1 BELL

1. T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1829.
(Diam. 33 in., height 24 in.)

HOCKLIFFE.

S. NICOLAS. 3 BELLS.

1. Vox Agvstini Sonet In Avre Dei [+ 6 ▽ 7 □ 8].
(Diam. 29½ in.)

2. [+ 6] Sancte Thoma Ora Pro Nobis [□ 8 ▽ 7].
(Diam. 30 in.)

3. [+ 6] Sancta Margreta Ora Pro Nobis [▽ 7].
(Diam. 31½ in.)

For Stamps, see p. 46.

This is the only complete ring of ancient bells in Bedfordshire. They are all of the same date and from the same foundry.

The ejaculatory prayers on the beautiful cross on these bells are frequently found on memorial brasses of pre-Reformation date. An example formerly existed in Luton Church in this county, on a brass to the memory of John Ackworth, who died 17th March, 1513, where the closing words of a quaint inscription were :—

Jesu mercye : Lady helpe : Mercy Jesu.

Since the above was written the ring here has been increased to four bells

by the addition of a new treble, cast by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., of Loughborough. It is inscribed :—

DEUM LAUDO ; VIVOS VOCO ; MORTUOS PLANGO.
F. H. GRAY, A.M., RECTOR.
G. E. GILLMAN ET JACOBUS E INWARDS ECCLESIÆ CUSTODES 1883.

(Weight 4 cwt. 3 qr. 19 lb.)

HOLWELL.

S. Peter. 2 Bells.

1, 2. REV^{D} C. D. RADCLIFFE RECTOR. THO^{S}. ARMSTRONG CHURCH WARDEN. THOMAS MEARS FOUNDER LONDON 1841.

HOUGHTON CONQUEST.

All Saints [but query S. James]. 6 Bells.

1. DOMINE MEMENTO MEI. T. MEARS FOUNDER LONDON 1840.
(Diam. 31 in., height 25 in.)

2. PATER IN MANUS TUAS COMMENDO SPIRITUM MEUM T. MEARS FOUNDER LONDON 1840.
(Diam. 34 in., height 26½ in.)

3. GLORIA PATRI FILIO ET SPIRITUI SANCTO T. MEARS FOUNDER LONDON 1840.
(Diam. 36 in., height 27 in.)

4. OMNIA FIANT AD GLORIAM DEI T. MEARS FOUNDER LONDON 1840.
(Diam. 38 in., height 28 in.)

5. GURGITE ET AUDITE VOCEM MEAM. REV. HENRY J ROSE RECTOR.
Titus Cherry, Joseph Chappell } Churchwardens 1841.
(Diam. 41½ in., height 29 in.)

6. I H S NAZARENUS REX JUDEORUM FILI DEI MISERERE MEI. T. MEARS FOUNDER LONDON 1840.
(Diam. 43 in., height 30 in.)

Probably, prior to 1626, there were only four bells, for the Parish Register tells us that "Thomas Archer, person of Houghton, gave Ten pounds to the making of a ffyft Bell in Anno Dom. 1626, Aprilis primo."

"The seuerall inscriptions," sàys another entry in the Register, "upon the five old bells were as followeth:—

1. Sr. Edmund Conquest, Sr. ffrancis Clarke, Mr. Thomas Archer, Mr. Thomas Audley 1633.
2. Lord Ailsbury, Lord Ashburnam, Benedt. Conquest, Esq., Thomas Armstrong, Esq., Etheldreda Conquest, Henry Pearce, Thomas Impey.
3. Ave Maria! Gratia Plena!
4. Vive diu sed vive Dei, Deus omnia videt, 1626.
5. The Trinity have mercy on me Margaret Conquest.
   Trinitate sacra fiat hac Campana beata.

The Rev. Thomas Archer, who contributed so liberally to augmenting the ring of bells here, left a collection of MSS., from which we learn that he was "borne in St. Edmunds Burie, 12 Aug., 1554," and was presented to the Rectory of Meppershall in November, 1613, which he probably held in conjunction with Houghton Conquest. He also relates that "Sir Edmond Conquest, Knight"—whose name was on the 1st bell—"was high shreive of Bedfordshire in Anno dom. 1618," and that "Sir ffrancis Clerke"—whose name was also on the same bell, and who "was married to M. Anne Conquest the 26 of Novemr, 1593"—"was high shrive for the Countie of Bedford in a part of anno Dom. 1623 and in part of 1624, and Kinge Jeames, king of great Brittane, fraunce, And Ireland being this yeere in his progress in Bedfordshire graced him with the degree of knighthood, 1624, in July."

These five bells were "run into six by Thomas Russell of Wooton in the year 1724."*

The six bells, so cast in 1724, having become, some cracked, and all more or less unfit for use, were recast by Mr. Mears, as described above, in the year 1840, at a cost of £54, and were first rung on the birth of the Prince of Wales in the following year, 1841.

---

* For these extracts from the Parish Registers and from the Archer MSS. I am indebted to the industry of Mr. F. A. Blaydes, who contributed them with many others to *Bedfordshire Notes and Queries*. Note xxxi.

The Rev. Henry John Rose (see 5th bell) was instituted in 1837, and died on the 31st of January, 1873.

What is the allusion on the 5th bell?

HOUGHTON REGIS.

All Saints. 6 Bells.

1. JOHN BRIANT HERTFORD FECIT 1815 +.
(Diam. 31 in., height 25 in.)
2. J. BRIANT HERTFORD FECIT 1816 + ⛪ ⛪.
(Diam. 32 in., height 27 in.)
3. ƎRIWOƆWƎN MADE MEE 1616.
(Diam. 34 in., height 31 in.)
4. J. BRIANT HERTFORD FECIT 1811 + C : W . ·.
(Diam. 36 in., height 29 in., names of C.W. omitted.)
5. Joḥn S dier made S me 1580.
(Diam. 40 in., height 36 in.)
6. ANTHONY CHANDLER MADE ME 1673.
(Diam. 44 in., height 30 in.)

In 1552 the ring had apparently been recently increased from four to five bells, but was again reduced to the original number in consequence of the cost of the new bell not being paid.

The Inventory taken that year says :—

"Item iiij belles and y^e^ v bell wass not all payd for and therfore yt wass solld to pay yt."*

Considerable alterations are said to have been made in the belfry early in the present century. There were then five large bells—the parishioners had either recovered the fifth bell, sold about the year 1552, or had subsequently purchased another. The ancient tenor bell—the stock of which is still pointed out in the ringing chamber—is reported to have been sold to Wavendon in Buckinghamshire; the old second was recast in 1811, and two new trebles—completing the present ring of six bells—were added in 1815 and 1816.

The 5th and 6th bells have had their cannons knocked off; the cannons of the new bells, 1st, 2nd and 4th, are very short; those of the third—a powerful bell—are very long. The fifth bell is a great favourite with the parishioners.

* *Land Revenue Records.* Bundle 1392, File 2. P. R. Off.

HULCOTE.

S. Nicolas. 4 Bells.

1. CHAVDLER MADE ME 1683.
(Diam. 27½ in., height 21 in.)

2. [*Donor's* ∪ *Arms*] Rychard Charnock Esqvcir Johannes Dier § Me § Fecit § A § 1593 Only To God Be § all § Honor & Glorie.
(Diam. 30½ in., height 22½ in.)

3. [*Donor's* ∪ *Arms*] Rychard Charnock Esqvcir Johannes Dier Me Fecit A § 1593 Only To God Be All Honor & Glorie.
(Diam. 38 in., height 25 in.)

4. RICHARD CHANDLER MADE ME 1723.
(Diam. 36 in., height 30 in.)

On the 31st of August, 1552, when the Inventory of Church Goods belonging to this parish was taken, there were :—

> "Item iij lytell belles in the stepell the fore bell in compas A yeard one foote iij ynches in depth di. yard ij ynches in compas the second j yard di. iiij ynches in depthe di. yard vj ynches the third in compase ij yeardes xiij ynches depthe di. yeard vij ynches."*

These three little bells probably remained here until the church was rebuilt by the Richard Charnock, Esq., whose name is upon the present 2nd and 3rd bells, and who, doubtless, at that time gave four bells, two of which have since been recast.

So much of the history of the Charnock family as is sufficient for our present purpose may be gathered from two inscriptions on monuments in the church here. The first relates to the father of the donor of the bells :—

> Robert Chernocke Esqvier, Father of Richard Chernocke Esqvier Here interred did desende of an Anciente Hovse called Chernocke Hall in Lancashieree— He hadd by twoe wives of worshippfvll parentage ten children, by the one 6 and by the other 4—He was the firste that planted this famelye in this covntye. He lefte his estate to the

* *Land Revenue Records.* Bundle 1392, File 2. P. R. Off.

sayd Richard his sonne, Departinge this life abovte 60 yeares of age Anno Domini 1547.

The second relates to the donor himself:—

Here lyeth interred the Bodye of Richard Charnocke Esq[r] sonne & Heire of Robert Chernocke here remembered he had twoe wives the first named Mary Pvthenam daughter of S[r] George Puthenham of Sherfielde in Hamshire Knight—By her he had Issve 6 sonnes and 8 daughters—The second wife named Avdrey Fradsom davghter of William Fradsom of Elton in the Covntye of Chester Esq. by whom he had noe issve. He reedified his parish Churche at his owne proper charge, newe bvilt his mansion Howse, Thrice bare office of Highe Shrife in this Shire: And Lastelye Havinge attayned the age of 84 yeares peaceablye and piovslye Deceased the 14th daye of August Anno Domini 1615.

The donor's arms on the 2nd and 3rd bells are [arg.] on a bend [sa.] three cross crosslets of the first with a crescent in chief for difference.

HUSBORNE CRAWLEY.

S. James. 6 Bells and a Priest's Bell.

1. St. JOHN THOMASON ESQ. GAVE ME 1637 RECAST 1820 BY R : TAYLOR & SON S[T]. NEOTS.
(Diam. 31½ in., height 24 in.)

2. ИEWCOME OF LEICESTER MADE ME 1611.
(Diam. 33½ in., height 26½ in.)

3. WILLIAM EMERTON OF WOOTTON FECIT ○ 1779.
(Diam. 35½ in., height 27½ in.)

4. ИEWCOME MADE ME A[O] 1616.
(Diam. 39 in., height 31 in.)

5. R. TAYLOR & SON FOUNDERS S[T]. NEOTS SEP[R] 13[TH] 1820 ○○○○○○○
(Diam. 42½ in., height 32 in.)

6. ИEWCOME OF LEICESTER MADE ME A[O]. 1613.
(Diam. 46½ in., height 33½ in.)

Priest's Bell:—

1661.

In the Inventory of Church Goods belonging to "Husbande Craulcy," taken 1st September, 1552, is a full description of the size of the bells:—

"Item j hanbell and a Saunce Bell.

"Item in ye steple of ye sayde chyrche iiij belles. The grete bell in bredithe iiij foote & hallfe A inche, in depthe iij foote & v inches & in thycknes iij inches. The second in bredthe iij foote viij inches in depthe iij foote ij inches iij quarters in thycknes ij inches and iij quarters of an inche. The thyrde in bredthe iij foote v inches, in depthe iij & hallfe and (*sic*) inche and in thycknes ij inches & a hallfe. The fourthe bell in bredthe ij foote xj inches, in depthe ij foote v inches and in thycknes ij inches and a quarter of A inche." *

There is a tradition at Ridgmount that three bells were sold from the old church there to this parish about the year 1820.

It is reported, and very currently believed, at Woburn, that the Crawley bells were intended for that place, but the steeple there not being able to carry them, they were hung in their present position. There is clearly no truth in this fancy · it may have arisen from a jealous feeling in times past, on the part of the Woburn folk, for these bells are considered the best in the neighbourhood. The frames and wheels, too, are in excellent order.

These bells had a narrow escape of destruction in the year 1841, when their frames were, after a thunderstorm, found to be on fire, which was quenched by water carried up the spiral staircase—which was then in a sadly dilapidated state—in buckets. The bells were not rung for some years afterwards; the frames were then restored from the wood left in the old frames, which were large. The staircase, too, has recently been repaired, and the approach to the bells and clock is now all that can be desired.

There is a charity here called "The Husborne Crawley Charity," from the receipts of which grants can be made for the "repairs of the Parish Church, Church Steeple, Bells and Church Clock."

"St. John Thomason, Esqre.," who gave the treble bell in 1637, was probably a son of the John Thomson, Esq., one of the auditors of the Exchequer and Lord of this Manor, who, dying in 1597, was buried here in a tomb, upon

* *Land Revenue Records*, Bundle 1392, File 2, P. R. Off.

which are the effigies of himself and his wife. The Registers contain entries at intervals relating to his family, but there is no trace of the donor of the bell.

KEMPSTON.

ALL SAINTS. 5 BELLS.

1. PRAISE THE LORDE 1617 [♡ 39].
   (Diam. 36 in., height 28 in.)
2. IH'S NAZARENVS REX IVDEORVM FILI DEI MISERERE MEI 1633 [♡ 39].
   (Diam. 37 in., height 30 in.)
3. RYCHARD MAMFORD : GEORGE WHEELER CHURCH-WARDENS 1616.
   (Diam. 39 in., height 33 in.)
4. [+ 28] AX : ANA : NATA : SALVET : NOS : VIRGO : BEATA
   (Diam. 43 in., height 35 in.; cracked).
5. HUGH WATTES MADE MEE 1603 [♡ 39].
   (Diam. 46 in., height 36 in.)

For Stamps, see pp. 60 and 55, and for specimens of letters on the 1st, 2nd and 5th, see pp. 59 and 63.

The founder intended to say on the 4th, "Ex Anna nata salvet nos Virgo Beata."

KEYSOE.

S. MARY. 5 BELLS.

1. THOMAS MEARS FOUNDER LONDON 1840.
   REVD. WILLIAM AIRY VICAR.
   JOHN FOX, JOHN BROWNING } CHURCHWARDENS.
   (Diam. 33 in., height 25½ in.)
2. RICHARD BRICE AND ISAAC FLANDERS CHURCHWARDENS.
   JOS. EAYRE FECIT.
   (Diam. 34½ in., height 28 in.)

3. NEWCOME MADE ME A° 1615.
(Diam. 30 in., height 29 in.)

4. HENRY HAINES .... CHANDLER MADE ME 1683.
(Diam. 39½ in., height 30 in.)

5. WILSON WELLS VICAR THOS HARTOP AND THOS WHITE CHURCHWARDENS + EDD ARNOLD ST NEOTS FECIT 1772.
(Diam. 44½ in., height 33 in.)

KNOTTING.

S. MARGARET. 1 BELL.

1. UNITAS. REV J. W. HAWKESLEY RECTOR GEORGE HINE CHURCHWARDEN.
T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1828.
(Diam. 21½ in., height 16½ in.)

The Rev. J. W. Hawkesley was instituted in March, 1792, and died in April, 1856.

LANGFORD.

S. ANDREW. 3 BELLS.

1. C. & G. MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON 1855.
(Diam. 28¾ in.)

2. RICHARD WHEELER CHURCHWARDEN · EDWD ARNOLD ST NEOTS FECIT 1780.
(Diam. 29½ in.)

3. JOSEPH FEILD AND EDWARD CLARK CHURCHWARDENS JOSEPH EAYRE FECIT 1772.
(Diam. 33 in.)

LEIGHTON BUZZARD.

ALL SAINTS. 8 BELLS AND A PRIEST'S BELL.

1. JOHN SWINSTEAD DID THRO' PERSEVERANCE RAISE THIS PEAL COMPLEAT. REAL MERIT IS HIS PRAISE 1787. JOHN STUBBE M.D. DONOR W. & T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1787.
(Diam. 32 in., height 25 in.)

2. John Mann Yeoman. W. & T. Mears late Pack & Chapman of London Fecit 1787.
(Diam. 33 in., height 25 in.)

3. Mrs Martha Sidgwick Donor 1639 W. & T. Mears of London Fecit 1788.
(Diam. 35½ in., height 25 in.)

4. Sir Thomas Leigh Knight Donor 1623 W. & T. Mears late Lester Pack & Chapman of London Fecit 1787.
(Diam. 38¼ in., height 27 in.)

5. W. & T. Mears Late Lester Pack and Chapman London Fecit 1787.
(Diam. 41¼ in., height 30 in.)

6. John & Matthew Tillcock Overseers The Living to the Church I call and to the Grave I summons all W. & T. Mears Late Lester Pack & Chapman of London Fecit 1787.
(Diam. 43½ in., height 32 in.)

7. In Wedlock Bands all ye who Join With Hands Your Hearts Unite So shall our Tunefull Tongues Combine To Laud the Nuptial Rite W. & T. Mears Late Lester Pack & Chapman of London Fecit 1787.
(Diam. 47½ in., height 35 in.)

8. Revd John Wilson Samuel Davis Esquires Jeremiah Tilcock and William Poulton Churchwardens W. & T. Mears of London Fecit.
(Diam. 53½ in., height 51 in.)

Priest's Bell :—
Blank.
(Diam. 18½ in., height 18½ in.)

The total weight of these bells (exclusive of the Priest's bell) is 5 tons 5 cwt., the tenor is 3½ in. thick at the sound-bow.*

The impression here is that the Priest's bell is an ancient one—it is called a "Roman Bell." It is probably, from its length compared with its diameter, of pre-Reformation date.

---

* *Ex infor.* John Harris, Esq., C.E.

On the Bell-frame is cut :—

EDWARD : ASHWELL
ROBERT : KESER. FRANCIS
MYCKELL : COLLS. PRICE
C : W. 1639

Mr. John Swinstead (see 1st bell) was a landed proprietor living in the neighbourhood. He is traditionally remembered as a man passionately fond of music and bells, and was endowed, it is said, with a voice of five octaves in compass. Mr. John Stubbe was a physician practising in Leighton at that time.

Mr. John Mann (see 2nd bell) was also a landowner at Leighton: his descendants emigrated to America.

Sir Thomas Leigh (see 4th bell) was at that time Lord of the Manor of Leighton.

The Rev. John Wilson (see tenor bell) died in 1826.

"The Hon^ble Charles Leigh Esq^re." left, in 1704, by his will, 20*s.*, to be paid every Christmas to the Parish Clerk for ringing the bell to daily prayers. This, being charged on leasehold property, expired some time ago.

The clock and chimes having been silent for many years, were restored, in 1863, by Charles White, Esq., merchant of London, a native of this place.

LEIGHTON BUZZARD.

A new church dedicated to S. Andrew, and consecrated in 1867; has one small modern bell.

LIDLINGTON.

All Saints. 1 Bell and a Priest's Bell.

1. MEARS & STAINBANK LONDON 1874.
(Diam. 40 in., height 29 in.)

Priest's Bell :—

Petre [□ *a Lion passant gardant*].
(Diam. 12 in., height 9 in.)

In the tower of the old church, taken down in the year 1809, were five bells. In that year a blacksmith was induced by a gift of five shillings to ascend the belfry, then in a dangerous condition, and to hammer the tenor bell, then cracked, whilst the other bells were being rung. The 4th bell of the old

ring and the Priest's bell were alone preserved and hung in the new tower. The former was inscribed :—

Sancta Margareta Ora Pro Nobis.

Becoming cracked, it was recast as above in 1874. The latter is an ancient sanctus bell, bearing, in addition to its name, a small stamp of a lion passant gardant.

LUTON.

S. Mary. 8 Bells and a Priest's Bell.

1. I mean to make it Understood that Tho' I'm Little yet I'm Good Pack & Chapman of London Fecit 1775.
(Diam. 29 in., height 23 in.)

2. Altho' I am Both Light and Small I will be Heard above you All. Pack & Chapman of London Fecit 1775.
(Diam. 30 in., height 25 in.)

3–7. Pack & Chapman of London Fecit 1775.
(Diams. 33, 35, 36½, 39, 41½ in., heights 25, 25, 26½, 30, 33 in. The letters on the 7th bell are incised.)

8. I H S Nazarenus Rex Judeorum Fili Dei Miserere Mei Jos. Eayre St Neots Fecit 1761.
(Diam. 46 in., height 36 in.)

Priest's Bell :—

1637.
[▽ 48.]
(Diam. 19 in., height 17 in.)

For Stamp on Priest's bell, see p. 69.

The "old ring" of bells is said to have consisted of five, namely :—

Treble—mediæval.
2nd—dated 1602.
3rd—dated 1616.
4th—undated.
Tenor—mediæval, and believed to have weighed 44 cwt. 2 qrs. 16 lbs.*

When the present bells were examined the Priest's bell was missing, but was eventually found in an outhouse at the Rectory. It had been lent for use at a temporary district church, and had not then been restored to its proper place.

* *Ex infor.* John Harris, Esq., C.E.

MARSTON MORETAINE.

S. Mary. 5 Bells.

1–5. ABCDEFH GHIKLMN OPQRST 1610 [▽ 39].
(Diams. 32½, 44 in., heights 26, 31½ in.)

2, 3. ABCDEFH GHIKLM NOPQRST 1610 [▽ 39].
(Diams. 34½, 35 in., heights 25½, 30 in.)

4. ABCDEFH GHIKLM NOPQR 1610 [▽ 39].
(Diam. 39 in., height 30 in.)

For Stamp, see p. 60.

These excellent bells, all from Hugh Watts' foundry, are what are termed alphabet bells. They all bear letters of the fine character figured on p. 59. They hang in a detached campanile, standing fifty feet from the church; the timbers of the frame are exceedingly large and strong.

MAULDEN.

S. Mary. 5 Bells.

1. Te Deum Laudamus [▽ 24 □ 23] O [□ 22].
(Diam. 29 in., height 23 in.)

2. EMMERTON OF WOOTTON FECIT 1780.
John Gudgins } Churchwardens.
John Webb }
(Diam. 31½ in., height 23 in.)

3. Johannes dier hanc campanam fecit 1593.
(Diam. 32½ in., height 25 in.)

4. THOMAS RVSSELL OF WOOTTON MADE ME 1738 +
Michael Winwright
& Joseph Higham.
(Diam. 36 in., height 27 in.)

5. T Mears of London Fecit 1831 Recast 1831. Revd Charles Ward MA Rector.
Mr T. W. Overman } Church Wardens.
Mr John Seabrook }
(Diam. 40 in., height 29 in.)

For Stamps, see pp. 53 and 54.

The Rev. Chas. Ward (see tenor bell) was instituted in 1825.

MELCHBOURNE.

S. Mary. 4 Bells.

1. PAWLETT St JOHN VICAR WM AND THOS EDMUNDS C. W.·. ISLIP EDMUNDS LONDON FECIT 1764.
   (Diam. 33½ in., height 26½ in.)
2. THOMAS RVSSELL MADE ME 1719.
   (Diam. 35½ in., height 27½ in.)
3. NON VERBO SED VOCE RESONABO DOMIM (*sic*) LAVDES 1626.
   (Diam. 28 in., height 31½ in.)
4. FEARE GOD AND OBEY THE PRINCE 1601 [▽ 39].
   (Diam. 42 in., height 32 in.)

For Stamps and Letters on 4th bell, see pp. 60 and 59.

The Rev. Pawlet St. John signs the Registers as Curate in 1740, and first as Vicar in May, 1742; his name ceases to appear after 7 August, 1774, but he does not appear to have been buried in this parish.

MEPPERSHALL.

S. Mary. 5 Bells.

1. John Dier ▽ Made Me 1591.
   (Diam. 28½ in., height 21½ in.)
2. HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD. JOHN TAYLOR & Co. FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH 1882.
   (Diam. 31½ in., weight 6 cwt. 3 qr. 7 lb.)
3. J : FOX. C : W. J : BRIANT HERTFORD FECIT 1816.
   (Diam. 31½ in., height 23 in.)
4. OMNIA FIANT AD GLORIAM DEI : JOSEPH EAYRE OF SAINT NEOTS HUNTINGDONSHIRE FECIT 1766.
   (Diam. 36 in., height 28 in.)
5. WILLIAM EMMERTON WOOTTON FECIT O 1774 William Lincoln Churchwarden O
   (Diam. 39½ in., height 29 in.)

In the Public Record Office are preserved some papers relating to—amongst other Church goods—a "Saunce bell," formerly belonging to this Church.

There is a letter dated from Westminster, on the 16th of May, 1556, signed by William Berners, Thomas Mildmay and John Wyseman, and addressed to Thomas Strynger, of Mepersale, in the county of Bedford, yeoman, by which he is ordered to appear in person before the writers at Westminster on the first day of Trinity Term then next, to answer concerning the detention of Church goods formerly belonging to the parish church of Mepersale.

There is also a letter from Thomas Hemmynge, dated from Alrychesey, 3rd June [1556], and addressed to Berners, Mildmay and Wyseman, touching the order so given to Stringer, stating that the charge was made against him out of malice, "and forasmuche as my neyghbour ys an olde man, and not used to jorney, and that also I unworthely amonge other of the worshypfull as I suppose are yn lyke Commyssyone within our Shyre of Bedf: of and for the churche gooddes and other thynges, I have called the seid partie before me, and have declared the contentes of yo^r^ lettres before hym, and uppon dewe examynation therin had before me and other of the Commyssyon, have taken his answer concernynge the premisses yn wrytynge." The writer promises to go up himself within a day or two of the beginning of that term, and trusts that the non-appearance of Stringer will not offend them. The declaration of Thomas Strynger is also preserved. It sets forth at some length that about six or seven years past he and one Gowther Parker, yeoman, of the same town (*i.e.* Mepersale), now deceased, were the Churchwardens of Mepersale, and when they were commanded by the King's Commissioners to come before them, and to bring a lawful inventory of such church goods and money as belonged to the said church of Mepersale, they appeared at Luton, and also at Clifton, and at the latter place delivered to Sir Michael Fisher, knight, and other Commissioners, an inventory in which, with other things, "and also v belles." After the inventory so presented, and before any goods were delivered, he and Parker upon the accounts were discharged, and John Strynger and Harry Meade were elected Churchwardens, after which election, and about three years past, they were commanded to appear before new Commissioners at Bedford with the ornaments specified in the inventory, and the said Churchwardens did make delivery accordingly. And forasmuch as it is to be supposed that one John Leventhorpe the elder, gentleman, of Mepersale, is one of the procurers of the bill against him, the deponent says that he must needs speak of the "ymbeaselynge" of certain goods by the said Leventhorpe which were not put in the Inventory

"Inprimis he had a saunce belle hangynge yn the belfrey, and converted the

same to his owne use, and never payd one peny therfore and by estymacon worthe to be sold iiij markes or thereaboughtes."

The charge against Thomas Strynger appears to be comprised in these words :—

"Ornamentes belonging to the churche of Mepersale and solde and deteyned by Thomas Stringer of the same.

ffyrste one chalesse . . . . . .

. . . . . .

Item one handebell solde to Leonard Daye.....xvj*d.*

. . . . . .

Sm^{a}. vij^{li}. xiij^{s}. viij^{d}.

M^{d} the Commyssyoners certyfycate of Beddfordshyre beyng serched the xix Daye of June ann. ij^{do} and iij^{cio} itt apperythe that lviij^{s}. viij$_{d}$. for the broken chalyce the cope of Taffyta and latten was paid to the Commyssyoners handes by the said Thomas Stringer, and is chardged within the summe of cccviij^{li}. iiij$_{d}$. for the churche goodes of Beddfordeshyre."*

Prior to 1882 the present 3rd bell was the 2nd, and the then 3rd bell was an ancient one, inscribed :—

+ CHRISTE : AVDI NOS.

This old bell, being full of flaws and of bad tone, was recast in that year for the 2nd bell, and the old 2nd, cast in 1816, being much too flat for its position in the ring, was adopted as the 3rd bell.

MILLBROOKE.

S. Michael. 2 Bells.

1. Sancta Maria Ora Pro Nobis [□ 23] O [□ 22].
(Diam. 33 in., height 26 in.)

2. RICHARD CHANDLER MADE ME 1677.
(Diam. 40 in., height 31 in., cracked.)

For Stamps on the 1st (where the capital letters are crowned) see p. 53.

There were formerly three bells : one is now missing ; an aged clerk says, "Sent away by Churchwardens, about sixty years ago, to be run, and never came back."

---

* *Land Revenue Records.* Church Goods, $\frac{442}{17}$. P.R. Off.

MILTON BRYANT.

S. Peter. 3 Bells.

1. [+ 56] [I K 53] 1641 [□ 58].
(Diam. 30 in., height 24 in.)

2. 1636 [□ 51] RICHARD CHAИDELER [+ 50] 1636.
(Diam. 32½ in., height 27 in.)

3. [+ 55] GOD [□ 58] SAVE OVR KING 1641 [I K 53].
(Diam. 36½ in., height 27 in., cracked.)

For Stamps, see pp. 75, 76 and 71.

On the fly-leaf of one of the Registers is a memorandum that "1 bell was cast in 1622, Mr. Winne being the Rector." No present bell agrees with this entry.

The tenor was recently cracked by allowing the clapper to "drop," and so strike the bell below the sound-bow. The clock-hammers (there are two) which now strike on the 2nd bell, bell-ropes, etc., required attention when these bells were examined. Possibly the defects have been since remedied by the Churchwardens.

The bells formerly hung in a kind of wooden tower, or bell-cage. The present tower was built about thirty years ago. It is large enough for a good ring of bells, but the walls are rather thin.

MILTON ERNEST.

All Saints. 5 Bells.

1, 4, 5. ИEWCOME OF LEICESTER MADE ME Aº 1611.
(Diams. 28, 34, 37 in., heights 23, 26, 29 in.)

2. RICHARD CHANDLER MADE ME 1678.
(Diam. 30 in., height 24 in.)

3. I ·˙· EDMUNDS LONDON FECIT 1765. GEO ·˙· BACK-HOUSE VICAR. HENRY BULL & JAMES HARTWELL : C ·˙· W ·˙·
(Diam. 32 in., height 25 in.)

MUGGERHANGER.

S. Mary the Virgin. 1 Bell.

1. HOLINESS TO THE LORD.
G. MEARS FOUNDER LONDON 1860.
(Diam. 23½ in., height 18½ in.)

NORTHILL.

S. Mary. 5 Bells.

1. [▽ 21] Sancte Gabriel Ora Pro Nobis O.
(Diam. 34½ in., height 26 in.)

2. RICHARD [□ 38] HARDING [□ 38] & ANNE [□ 38] HARDING [▽ 39] 1589.
(Diam. 35 in., height 28 in.)

3. FEARE GOD AND OBEY THE PRINCE 1602 [▽ 39].
(Diam. 39 in., height 30 in.)

4. RICHARD CHANDLER MADE ME 17—11.
(Diam. 43½ in, height 33½ in.)

5. NEWCOME OF LEICESTER MADE ME A° 16113.
(Diam. 48½ in., height 36 in.)

For Stamps and for specimen of letters on the 2nd and 3rd, see pp. 52, 60 and 59.

OAKLEY.

S. Mary. 5 Bells.

1. R. STOKES ✣ VICAR O J : AGUTER & O : PURSER C : W ✣ 1750. T : EAYRE . · . KETT. FECIT O.
(Diam. 28 in., height 23½ in.)

2. T. SMITH R. KNIGHT CHVRCHWARDENS J. C. 1711.
(Diam. 30 in., height 23½ in.)

3. GOD SAVE THE KINGE [▽ 39].
(Diam. 32 in., height 26 in.)

4. THOMAS MEARS FOUNDER LONDON 1842.
(Diam. 35 in., height 25 in.)

5. PRAISE THE LORD 1600 [▽ 39].
(Diam. 38 in., height 35 in.)

For Stamps and for specimens of letters on the 3rd and 5th bells, see pp. 60 and 59.

There is in the church a memorial to "The Rev^{d}. M^{r}. Robert Stookes [see treble bell], Vicar of this parish and Curate of Steventon : he died the 11th of November, 1770, in the 62nd year of his age."

ODELL.

All Saints. 5 Bells.

1, 2. 1638. I K.

(Diams. 30½ and 33 in., heights 24 and 25½ in.)

3. WB [□ 57]. RR [□ 58]. CW 1638.
IK.

(Diam. 34½ in., height 28 in.)

4. [+ 54] GOD SAVE OVR KIИG 1618.

(Diam. 38½ in., height 30 in.)

5. LOVE AND FEARE GOD HONOUR AND OBAIE THE KING 1635 [▽ 39].

(Diam. 42½ in., height 32 in.)

For Stamps and for specimens of letters on the 5th bell, see pp. 76, 75, 60 and 59.

There are a set of good rules hanging in the ringing chamber for the guidance of the ringers.

PAVENHAM.

S. Peter. 5 Bells.

1. DANL HIPWELL AND WILLIAM DIX C: WARDENS ROBT TAYLOR ST NEOTS FOUNDER 1796.

(Diam. 28½ in., height 20½ in.)

2. GOD SAVE THE QVEENE 1602 [▽ 39].

(Diam. 28½ in., height 22½ in.)

3. RICHARD ▱ GILBERT [*] ROBERT ▱ TOLE ▱ CHVRCH ▱ WARDENS [*] JOHN ▱ HODSON ▱ MADE ▱ MEE ▱ 1663 [*] W H ▱ ▱ ▱.

(Diam. 30 in., height 25 in. * *Fleur-de-lys.*)

4. ИEWCOME MADE MEE AO 1614.

(Diam. 33½ in., height 26 in.)

5. [+ 54] GOD [□ 58] SAVE [□ 58] OVR [□ 58] KIИG [□ 58] 1623 [IK 53].

(Diam. 35½ in., height 27 in.)

For Stamps and for specimens of letters on the 2nd bell, see pp. 60, 75, 76 and 59.

PERTENHALL.

SS. Peter and Paul. 3 Bells.

1. ROBEART ◇ SMITH ◇ EDWARD ◇ PECOKE ◇ CHVRCH ◇ WARDENS ◇ O ◇ O ◇ WILLIAM ◇ HVLL ◇ MADE ◇ ME ◇ 1666 ◇.
   (Diam. 29½ in., height 23 in.)
2. JOHN WADSWORTH ○ CHVRCHWARDEN 1716 THOMAS RVƧƧELL OF WOOTTON.
   (Diam. 32½ in., height 25 in.)
3. CHANDLER MADE ME 1683.
   (Diam. 34½ in., height 28 in.)

These bells have been recently re-hung.

POLLUXHILL.

S. James. 1 Bell.

1. Thos Mears of London Fecit 1800 Wm Collyer & Josh Cole Church Wardens.
   (Diam. 32 in., height 24 in.)

POTTESGROVE.

S. Mary. 3 Bells.

1. Blank.
   (Diam. 26½ in., height 18½ in.)
2. EDWARD HALL MADE ME 1743. ELLISTON WALKER CHURCHWARDEN.
   (Diam. 28½ in., height, 21½ in.)
3. Thomas Mears of London Fecit 1813.
   (Diam. 30 in., height 22 in.)

It is said that prior to the year 1743 there was only a single bell, which hung in a stone turret. About that time two other bells were added, and a wooden erection was put up in which to place them. The church is now (1881) being restored. This wooden cage will be removed, and a new stone turret erected to contain the bells, in accordance with the original design. They will not be hung for ringing, simply for chiming by means of iron levers.

The treble bell, without inscription, is a long-waisted, ancient-looking bell. The cannons have been cut off, and she has been much cut, apparently in an endeavour to bring her into tune with the others.

POTTON.

S. Mary. 5 Bells.

1. THOMAS NEWMAN MADE MEE 1706 Mr. RICHARD LEE.
(Diam. 26½ in., height 19½ in.)

2. THOMAS HANKIN, THOMAS PLOMER. CW 1706.
(Diam. 28 in., height 21 in.)

3. JAMES UNDERWOOD & GEORGE KITCHING CHURCHWARDENS ROBT TAYLOR ST NEOTS FOUNDER 1797.
(Diam. 29½ in., height 21½ in.)

4. GEORGE KITCHIN & JOHN YAVD : CHVRCHWARDENS T. JANAWAY FECIT. RECAST ANNO DOMINI 1785.
(Diam. 32 in., height 23 in.)

5. GEORGE SMITH
JOHN CRESSEY LLOYD } CHURCHWARDENS.
C. & G. MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON 1844.
(Diam. 35 in., height 25 in.)

The Parish Registers contain several entries relating to the Lee family (see 1st bell), dating from 1673 to the 3rd of October, 1708, on which day is entered the burial of "Richard Lee, Gent.," the donor of, or a benefactor to, the treble bell. His name is mentioned in an account of the Potton Charities as lending £15 in July, 1699, to make up the sum of £220, the amount required to purchase some "Town Lands." The numerous local records of this parish are scattered about; they should be collected and placed in safe keeping. Many are lost, others are being damaged by damp and mice.

PUDDINGTON.

S. Mary. 4 Bells.

1. JOHN TAYLOR FOUNDER OXFORD AND LOUGHBOROUGH 1843.
(Diam. 30 in.)

2. ABC DER GHI 1609 [V 39].
(Diam. 34 in.)

3. [+ 54] GOD SAVE OVR KING 1618.
(Diam. 35 in., cracked).

4. [+ 54] GOD SAVE OVR KING 1618.
(Diam. 37 in.)

For Stamps and for specimens of letters on the 2nd bell, see pp. 60, 75 and 59.

RAVENSDEN.

ALL SAINTS. 3 BELLS.

1. THOMAS WALKER CHVRCHWARDEN 1711.
(Diam. 28 in., height 23½ in.)

2 C. & G. MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON 1847.
(Diam. 30½ in., height 23½ in.)

3. PRAISE THE LORDE 1603 [♡ 39.]
(Diam. 33 in., height 24 in.)

For Stamps and specimen of letters on 3rd bell, see pp. 60 and 59.

RENHOLD.

ALL SAINTS. 5 BELLS.

1, 2. CHRISTOPHER ·⁘· GRAIE ·⁘· MADE ME 1658.
(Diams. 28½, 30½ in., heights 21½, 24 in.)

3. Blank.
(Diam. 33 in., height 25½ in.)

4. THOMAS RVSSELL MADE ME 1721.
(Diam. 35 in., height 27½ in.)

5. WILLIAM EMMERTON ○ OF ○ WOOTTON FECIT 1775 ○ ○
ROBERT NEWMAN, RICHARD ASHPOLE } CHURCHWARDENS ○ ○
(Diam. 41½ in., height 30 in.)

RIDGMOUNT [ANCIENT].

There were formerly in this church—now used only as a cemetery chapel—four bells, three of which are said to have been sold, about sixty years ago, to Husborne Crawley, in order to raise money for repairs, and the 4th still remains hanging in a tower in far too dilapidated a condition to be safe for any one to ascend.

RIDGMOUNT [New Church].

All Saints. 1 Bell.

1. PRESENTED BY FRANCIS RUSSELL DUKE OF BEDFORD 1855 C. & G. MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON.
(Diam. 44 in., height 33 in.)

RISELY.

All Saints. 5 Bells.

1. GOD SAVE THE KINGE 1639 [▽ 39].
(Diam. 32 in., height 27 in.)

2. HGFEDCBA XWVT SRQPO 1639 [▽ 39].
(Diam. 32 in., height 28 in.)

3. + 🔔 F. W. WHITEHEAD & S. RICHARDS . C.W : R : TAYLOR & J BRIANT ST NEOTS FECERUNT 1816.
(Diam. 35½ in., height 28 in.)

4. C. & G. MEARS FOUNDERS 1852. LONDON.
(Diam. 40 in., height 28 in.)

5. SAMUEL RICHARDS & W BURBIDGE CHURCHWARDENS R : TAYLOR ST NEOTS FECIT 1814.
(Diam. 44 in., height 31 in.)

For Stamps, see p. 60.

ROXTON.

S. Mary. 4 Bells.

1. TAYLOR S^{T} NEOTS FOUNDER 1799.
(Diam. 28 in., height 19 in., piece out of sound-bow.)

2. [+ 1] BE YT KNOWNE TO ALL THAT DOTH ME SEE THAT NEWCOMBE OF LEICESTER MADE ME 1604.
(Diam. 29½ in., height 23 in.)

3. [*A Fleur-de-lys*] 1591.
(Diam. 30 in., height 25 in., large crack and piece out of sound-bow.)

4. Blank.
(Diam. 32 in., height 26 in.)

For Stamps on 2nd bell, see p. 41.

Three of these bells are said to have been cracked on the occasion of ringing for the marriage of the Prince of Wales in 1863.

SALFORD.

S. Mary. 3 Bells.

1. [+ 55] [□ 58 □ 58] [I K 53] 1626.
(Diam. 26 in., height 21 in.)

2. CHRISTOPHER GRAYE MADE ME 1661.
(Diam. 27 in., height 20 in.)

3. Ave Maria [▽ 24 □ 23] ○ [□ 22].
(Diam. 31 in., height 23 in.)

For Stamps, see pp. 75, 76, 53 and 54. The capitals of the inscription on the 3rd bell are crowned.

In 1552, when an Inventory of the Church Goods belonging to Salford was drawn up, there were :—

> "Item in ye steple of ye said church iij belles the great bell in compas too yeardes and di in deapth iij quarter and a nayle the second in compasse ij yerdes and a quarter in deapth iij quarter the third in compasse ij yerdes in deapth iij quarter save a nayle.
> Item ij hande belles."*

There is no tower to this church ; the bells are hung in an open wooden turret at the west end of the church, and can be reached only from the roof. They cannot be rung, as there are no wheels : they are chimed by levers.

SANDY.

S. Swithin. 5 Bells.

1. EGO SUM VOX CLAMANTIS JOSEPH EAYRE FECIT 1769.
(Diam. 31 in., height 27 in.)

2. RVSSELL OF WOOTTON MADE ME 1723.
(Diam. 33½ in., height 24 in.)

3. C. & G. MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON 1852.
(Diam. 36 in., height 26 in.)

4. [+ 1] BE YT KNOWNE TO ALL THAT DOTH MEE SEE THAT NEWCOMBE OF LEICESTER MADE MEE 1602.
(Diam. 39 in., height 29 in.)

---

* *Land Revenue Records*, Bundle 1392, File 2, P.R. Off.

5. THOMAS RVSSELL OF WOOTTON NEAR BEDFORD MADE ME 1733 O O O O O THOMAS BLEEN AND THOMAS ADKINS CHURCHWARDENS O O O O O O

(Diam. 42 in., height 31½ in.)

For Stamps on 4th bell, see p. 41.

This parish lost two bells in the reign of Edward the Sixth, for which the parishioners were called to account by the Commissioners in the year 1556. A letter, addressed from Sandy, is still extant in the Public Record Office, which, while not explaining very clearly under what circumstances the bells were removed from the steeple, gives a somewhat curious picture of the manner in which church bells were sometimes misappropriated. The letter runs thus :—

> After commendacions vnto yo^{r} Worships the Kinge and the quene ma^{ties} Comyssioners Theshalbe to ass^{r}teyn yo^{u} for answere accordynge to the tenor of you^{r} lettre directed to vs the Inhabitauntes of the Towne and paryshe of Sandeye in the County of Bedf. for ij belles thone wayenge x^{c} i q^{tr} and ix^{lli} of bell mettell and thother wayenge vij^{c} xlvij^{lli} of bell mettell w^{ch} said ij belles were lefte in the churche yarde of Sandey by y^{e} commaundeme^{t} of M^{r} Robt. Burgoyn decessid then beynge one of the Kynge ma^{ties} Audyto^{r}s who had all the doynge of the exchaynge of y^{e} saide ij belles and y^{en} charged y^{t} no persone shulde medle with y^{e} same belles vntill he sent for theym And sayd y^{t} he wold discharge vs of y^{em} at all tymes so y^{t} we were not charged w^{t} the said belles And so shortly after the dethe of the said Mr Burgoyn Dame Elizabethe Litton late wiff of y^{e} same maister Burgoyn late wiff of S^{r} Robt Litton Knyght also decessyd and now wiff unto Mr Thwynno, commaunded and caused one Michael Hodgskyn of Brodwater in the parishe of Nebborthe in the County of Hertf. y^{en} beynge bayly vnto y^{e} said Dame Elizabeth Litton to ffett the said ij belles from Sandey aforesaid wth his cart vnto Nebborthe aforesaid where as the same Lady Litton y^{en} dwelled. And y^{e} said Michaell Hodgskyn saythe shortly after y^{e} said Lady Litton caused y^{e} same ij belles to be carryed to London towardes the payment of y^{e} dettes of her said late husband Mr Burgoyn And this the said Michaell Hodgskyn who his a lyve at this present will witnes and testifie this before whome so ever he shalbe called, for s^{r}teyn of

vs the said inhabitaunce of Sandey were w^th^ the said Michaell Hodgskyn of late to have the trowght theryn who lyke an honest man declayred no lesse vnto vs y^en^ is before sayde and thus we the said Inhabytauntes of Sanday who have subscrybed o^r^ handes here vnder written in the name of all y^e^ inhabitauntes of y^e^ Towne and parishe of Sandey aforesaid have as well advertised yo^r^ worships by whom the same ij belles were taken away as also by whate auctorytie and further we cannot say as knowith God who have your Worships in his tuyscion from Sandey the xij^th^ of October 1556

by yo^rs^ to Commaunde

Thomas Cater	Roger Aldryche
Wyllyam ffrancke	
Tomas Cater	Willm. adrosere
Ihon bronsoll	Thomas wonderwode
Thomas Brittyn +	Thomas spring
Thomas Goswell	Rafe bronsoll
Wyll'am Cartor +	
Iohn Bronsoll	

[*Addressed*] To the Right Wo^r^shipfull
Mr Thomas Myldmay and
oy^rs^ y^e^ Kinge and quene ma^ties^
Commyssioners in the paryshe
of saynt Thomas thapostle
in London yeve these

[*below in another hand*]
ffrom Sandy

[*Endorsed*]
From the
Towne of
Sandye in
the Countie of
Bedf. concernyng
thaccompt of
S^r^ George
Gyffarde*

* *Land Revenue Records*, Bundle 1392, File 4, No. 1, P.R. Off.

SHARNBROOK.

S. Peter. 5 Bells.

1. JOHN SHARP AND JOHN MERRILL CHVRCHWARDENS MATTHEW BAGLEY MADE MEE 1683.
(Diam. 24 in.)

2. HENRY BAGLEY MADE MEE 1683.
(Diam. 29½ in.)

3. EX DONO THOME MOVNTAGV DE BVRTON COMITAT NORTHAMPTON RECTORIS 1683.
(Diam. 30½ in.)

4. ИEWCOME OF LEICESTER Aº 161. [?]
(Diam. 36 in.)

5. WILLIAM CORBEY AND JOHN ROGERS C W HENRICVS BAGLEY ME FECIT ○ 1699.
(Diam. 39 in.)

There is the date 1683 carved on the bell-frame: the bells were probably rehung in that year, when several of them were cast.

SHEFFORD.

S. Michael and All Angels. 1 Bell.

1. R. TAYLOR . FECIT Sᵀ NEOTS 1808 WILLIAM GREEN CHURCHWARDEN.
(Diam. 29½ in., height 22 in.)

SHELTON.

S. Mary. 3 Bells.

1. PRAIES GOD 1599.
(Diam. 26½ in., height 20 in.)

2. JOSEPH EAYRE Sᵀ NEOTS FECIT 1770.
(Diam. 29½ in., height 24 in.)

3. I H'Ƨ NAZARENVS REX IVDEORVM FILI DEI MISERERE MEI 1634 [▽ 39].
(Diam. 32 in., height 26 in.)

For Stamp and specimens of letters on the 3rd bell, see pp. 60 and 59.

There is a tradition current, both here and at the adjacent parish of Hargrave, Northamptonshire, that the Hargrave folk "swopped" a clock with their neighbours here for one of their bells, and to this day it is a matter of chaffing on the part of the Hargrave people that they had the best of the bargain.

SHILLINGTON.

All Saints. 5 Bells and a Priest's Bell.

1. [+ 47 / ▽ 48] PRAISE THE LORD 1638.
(Diam. 37 in.)

2. PRAISE THE LORD 1602 [▽ 39].
(Diam. 41 in.)

3. [+ 1] BE YT KNOWNE TO ALL THAT DOTH ME SEE THAT NEWCOMBE OF LEICESTER MADE MEE 160.
(Diam. 44½ in.)

4. NON CLAMOR SED AMOR CANTAT IN AURE DEI 1624.
(Diam. 45 in.)

5. [+ 59] CUM CANO BUSTA MORI CUM PULPITA VIVERE DISCE. DISCE MORI NOSTRO VIVERE DISCE SONO 1624.
(Diam. 47¼ in., height 39 in.)

Priest's Bell:—

1626.
(Diam. 16 in.)

For Stamps, see pp. 60, 69, 41 and 76; and for specimens of letters on the 2nd bell, see p. 59.

The Churchwardens' Accounts, which are in good preservation, contain many entries relating to the bells. I have, by the kind permission of the Rev. J. A. Bonser, the Vicar, extracted the following:—

1574 Paid to Robert Green and to Richard Deere for vj dayes worke aboute ye hanginge of the great bell and for trussinge of the other belles and mendinge of ye frame ... ... xiiij*s.*
Payd to James Deare for bred and Drinke at ye setting upp of ye poste to way ye great bell ... ... iiij*d*

Payd to Willyā Smithe for drawing fourth of y^e^ great bell clapper and for rounding of y^e^ same ... ... v*s.*
Paid to Willyā Smithe for laying of y^e^ flite of y^e^ fore bell clapper and for roundinge of y^e^ same... ... v*s.*

[Second and third bells mentioned]

Paid to John Wodfeild plum̃er of Hitchin for xv . . . of mettell ... ... x*s.*
1575 Receyvid of the belfounder ... ... v*li.*
Paid for one half hide witlethere ... ... ij*s.* ij*d.*

[This was for making baudricks for the bells]

Paid for makinge y^e^ quittance when we receyved money of y^e^ belfounder ... ... vj*d.*
Paid y^e^ belfounder in ernest when he toke y^e^ bell to caste ... ... xij*d.*
Paid for his supper ... ... xj*d.*

[Church Clock mentioned]

Paid to Robert Greene for mendinge the belles ... iij*s.* vj*d.*
Payd when they went to buckyngham when they went w^t^ the great bell ... ... xxij*d.*
Paid y^e^ same tyme for theyre suppers at Woburne xij*d.*
Paid for theire brekfaste in y^e^ mornyng ... ... viij*d.*
Paid for takynge downe y^e^ bell ... ... x*d.*
Paid to Willm. ffowlere for carringe the bell ... x*s.*
Paid to grene & his companye when they hounge up y^e^ bell for theire brekfasts at Deare his howse... xxij*d.*
Paid for on paire of boote ledgs to make bawdriks w^t^all ... ... xij*d.*
Paid ij bell Ropes ... ... vij*s.*
Payd to y^e^ Ringers on Seynt Hewes daye and for barbers suppere ... ... xij*d.*
[George Edwards] He laid forthe at buckingham when they went w^t^ y^e^ bell ... ... ij*s.* iiij*d.*
He laid forthe homeward at Woborne ... ... xx*d.*
He paid Willm̃ ffowler for carrynge the bell ... x*s.*
He laid forthe at Amptill as they came homeward w^t^ the bell ... ... ij*d.*

1576 Paid for bred and drinke for ye Ringers on Sainte Hewes daye .... xviij*d.*

1577 Itm̃ for a pece of Whytlether ... ... ij*s.*

1578 Itm̃ for mēdyng a bawdricke ... ... vj*d.*

[At the end of this year's account is, in a different handwriting :—

The new fore Bell do way vij hundred and xxij *li.*

The old fore Bell did waye vij hundred and a halfe and xiiij *li.*

The old third Bell did way iij q'ters of a hundred more than the new.

The new great Bell do way a hundred xxj *li.* more than the old.]

1579–80 Itm̃ for Bell mettell rec. ... ...iij*li.* x*s.*

Payments :—

Itm̃ to the bell founder an ernest ... ... vj*d.*

Itm̃ expence at the castinge of the bells ... ... vij*s.* ij*d.*

Itm̃ it was agreed that Ringted should have for takinge downe the bells and hanginge them up agayne xxxiij*s.* iiij*d.* whereof he receyved in money and a brasse of half a crowne ... ... xxvj*s.* viij*d.*

Itm̃ foure baudryks for the belles ... ... ij*s.* viij*d.*

Itm̃ for the bell ropes ... ... viij*s.*

Itm̃ layd out for the belfounder for vij sacks of charcoales and the fetchinge ... ... v*s.* viij*d.*

Itm̃ for the expences at the castinge of the last bell xij*d.*

1580–1 Itm̃ rec. for Bell mettell the xvij daye of Jan. beinge the first paymente ... ...ix*li.* ij*s.*

Itm̃ rec. for Bel mettel at one other tyme beinge the last paymente ... ... iiij*li.* xvij*s.*

Payments :—

Paid vnto William Smyth for mendinge of foure clapers and other worke ... ... xxiij*s.* iiij*d.*

September the xviijth Paid vnto the belfounder ... liij*s.* iiij*d.*

Paid for makinge of the acquitance ... ... iiij*d.*

Paid unto Roberte greene for certayne worke aboute the fourthe bell in hanginge of her faste ... ... xij*d.*

[This entry shows there were now five bells.]

1581–2 It' to the Bellfounder for arnest for casting the Bell ... ... iiij*d.*

It' dryncke for the Bellfounder ... ... iij*d.*

Payd to the Bellfounder for casting of the Bell ...iiij*li.* v*s.*

Payd for carryng & wayng the Bell & Recarryng ... v*s.*

Payd for taking downe of the Bell ... ... xij*d.*

Payd for the overplus of mettall ... ... viij*s.* viij*d.*

Paid for removing the fore bell ... ... xij*d.*

1585–6 It' payd for half a hide of Whitlether for the bells ij*s.* vj*d.*

1588 Payd to the Bellfounder for earnest for to cast the Bells ... ... xij*d.*

Payd for drynke for the Belfounder ... ... v*d.*

Payd for drynke for the woorkemen when they tooke downe the Bells ... ... ij*s.* vj*d.*

Payd for the Carters dynners and others of the towne when the Bells were caried to Hitchin ... viij*s.*

Payd for drynke for the Bellfounder and others that did helpe to drawe up the Bells ... ... xviij*d.*

Payd to the Bellfounder ... ... xxiij*s.*

Payd for the Bellfounders and the woorkemēs suppers when the Bells were hanged [?] ... ... x*s.*

Payd for the Bells founders dynner the iiijth of october vij*d.*

Payd to the Bellfounder the xth of Octob^{r} ... v*s.*

Payd to the Bellfounder the xijth of October ... xxxij*s.*

Payd for sope for the bells ... ... ij*d.*

Payd to Robert Greene for hanging the Bells ... xiij*s.* iiij*d.*

Payd for drynke when the Bells were hanged ... xx*d.*

Payd to the Bellfounder ... ... v*li.* vj*s.* viij*d.*

[There is next "a Booke levied for castinge of the Bells," a long list of ratepayers in 1588].

1594 It' paide to Kippes for fower Bell ropes wayng xliij*li.* at iij*d.* the pownde ... ... x*s.* viij*d.*

[Ringing on S. Hugh's day in this and other years.]

1597 Payd for a saunce bell roope ... ... viij*d.*

1599 Laid out to Scipis [Kippes of previous entry in 1594] of Hitchin the rope maker for a great bell rope ... ... iij*s.* iij*d.*

1603—4 Laied foorth by y^e^ Churchwardens about the bells as followeth :—

Paied to the bellfounder ... ... x*li.*

Paied for writing of bonds ... ... ij*s.*

Paied to y^e^ bellfounders men ... ... xij*d.*

Paied to William Easam his charges to Leicester when y^e^ bels went to be cast ... ... ix*s.* x*d.*

Paied at the same for John Mills & Leach his charges xiij*s.* iiij*d.*

Paied to Cheese for hanging y^e^ bells ... ...iiij*li.* xij*d.*

[Timber, Boards and Nails].

Paied for y^e^ carriage of y^e^ bells to Leicester ... vj*li.*

Paied to y^e^ bellfounder at y^e^ second payment ... x*li.*

Paied for bell roopes ... ... xv*s.* viij*d.*

Paied to John Burley for a dinner for y^e^ labourers and for bread and beare for them at the taking downe of y^e^ bells and y^e^ hanging them vp ... ... ix*s.* ix*d.*

Paied for oyle for y^e^ bels ... ... xij*d.*

Paied for mending y^e^ upper bell loft ... ... ij*s.* vj*d.*

[It is evident from these entries that several bells were recast at this time by Hugh Watts, of Leicester, then the most famous founder in the midland counties. One of those bells—the 2nd of the present ring—still remains, and bears the well-known stamp of the founder.]

1607 Paid for hanging the third bell ... ... xviij*d.*

1613 Paide to Honor for Hangeinge the bells and mendinge the frame ... ... xxxiiij*s.*

[and other work about the Bells]

Bestowed vpon the bellfounder ... ... vj*s.* viij*d.*

1614 Paid to Willm̃ Smith for mendinge the greate bell clap ... ... xiij*s.* iiij*d.*

1616 Ite' paid for a saunce bell roope ... ... xvij*d.*

Paid Willm̃ Hare . . . . and hanging the saunce bell xx*d.*

1619	Bestowed vpon the ringers the Vth of November ...			xij*d.*
1624	Layd forth at S^{t} Ives when I went wth the Bells ...	vij*s.*		
	Paid to Thomas Man and his two brothers for XX dayes worke about the Bells	xxxiij*s.*		
	[and other expences]			
	Paid to John ffeild & John Crouch for carrying the Bells to S^{t} Ives	xl*s.*		
	Paid for taking downe the bells	xviij*s.*		v*d.*
	Layd forth at S^{t} Ives when we did bargayne at the first			xij*d.*
	And when we took bond of him			xij*d.*
	Given to his man when the bels was cast	ij*s.*		
	And when they ware cast myselfe and my horsse ...	vij*s.*		
	And for making the Bond			xij*d.*
	Item for casting the Bells and brasses	xj*li.*	j*s.*	ij*d.*
	[The above entries, made in 1624, relate to the casting of the present 4th and 5th bells in that year. They were cast by Tobias Norris, of Stamford, who probably at that time had a temporary foundry at St. Ives.*]			
1628	Item given to the Ringers on the Coronation day...	ij*s.*		
1629	Ite' given for ringing vpon the king's holiday ...	ij*s.*		
	[and so in 1631]			
1632	Ite' paid to John Cheese for worke about y^{e} saunce bell	0	[illegible]	0
1638	Ite' spent at Hartf' when we went wth the Bell ...	0	8	8
	Ite' to John Baxter for hanging of the Bell ...	0	14	0
	Ite' at going out of our bell and at coming in for bread and beere	0	1	4
	Ite' to John Crouch for drawing our bell to Hartford	0	13	0
	Ite' to Robert Oldfeild for casting our bell at eleaven shillinge the hundred	4	10	6
	Ite' spent at the payment of the money	0	0	9

* In further support of this opinion, see Dr. Raven's *Church Bells of Cambridgeshire*, 2nd Ed., p. 70.

Ite' paid for two Bonds about casting of the Bell... o 1 o
[These entries made in 1638 relate to the casting of the present treble bell in that year.]

1661 Given to y^e^ Ringers y^e^ 29^th^ of May ... ... o 2 6
[In 1665 there are charges for ringing on Coronation day and "Gunpowder Treason day."]

There is an erroneous tradition that the bells here—which are fine in tone—came from the neighbouring parish of Arlesey. [See p. 123.] They were not injured when the ancient tower fell in 1701.

SILSOE.

S. James. 2 Bells.

1, 2. CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1857.
Royal ∪ *Arms.*
PATENT.
(Diams. 29½, 32 in., height 22, 23 in.)

SOULDROP.

All Saints. 3 Bells.

1. T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1828. PAX.
(Diam. 21½ in., height 17½ in.)

2. T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1828. BENEVOLENTIA.
(Diam. 23 in., height 18½ in.)

3. T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1828. GLORIA.
THE REV^D^ JOHN WEBSTER HAWKSLEY RECTOR OF KNOTTING & SOULDROP RECTOR OF TURVEY BEDS.
JOSEPH RADBOURNE, RICHARD POOLE } CHURCHWARDENS
(Diam. 26 in., height 20½ in.)

The roof of the ancient church here having fallen in about Christmas, 1795, the bells, the lead, and the old materials of the church were sold—in August, 1799—in order to raise funds to build a barn-like structure at a cost of £500, which gave place to the present fabric. The lead sold for £80, and the bells—two in number—for £60. One of the latter is said to have been inscribed:

Sit nomen Domini benedictum.

The Rev. J. W. Hawksley (see tenor bell) was instituted in March, 1792; he died in April, 1856.

SOUTHILL.

ALL SAINTS. 6 BELLS.

1—5. + JOHN BRIANT HERTFORD FECIT 1814.
(1. Diam. 29 in., height 21 in.
2. Diam. 30 in., height 22 in.
3. Diam. 32 in., height 24 in.
4. Diam. 35 in., height 26 in.
5. Diam. 37½ in., height 29 in.)

6. MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1867.
(Diam. 42½ in., height 29½ in.)

The following hangs on the walls of the belfry :—

SOUTHHILL PARISH.

Rules to be strictly observed by every one who enters this belfry.

We ring the Quick to Church, the Dead to Grave,
Good is our use, such usage let us have.
He that wears Spur, or Hat, or Cap, or breaks a stay,
Or from the floor does by a bell rope sway,
Or leaves His rope down Careless on the floor :
Or nuisance makes within the belfry Door,
Shall six pence forfeit for each single Crime,
T'will make him carefull at another Time.

Whoever Breaks or injures any of the Handbells shall make the Damage good.

We Gentleman Ringers are nobodys foes,
We disturb none but those who want too much repose.
Our music's so sweet, so enchanting to hear,
We wish there was ringing each Day in the Year.

To call the folks to Church in time, we chime, { three seven minute peals Stop one minute between, toll the Tenor four minutes, ring the Ting Tang three minutes. Total ½ an hour.

When Mirth and pleasure is on the wing we ring,
At the Departure of a Soul we Toll.

Ringers { George Bryant.
William Litchfield.
John Litchfield.
George Stacey.
James Handscomb.
James Finding.

John Hale, Sexton.
David Dickens, Parish Clerk.

It would appear that when the above Rules were drawn up, there was a Priest's bell, or "Ting-Tang," now lost.

STAGSDEN.

S. Leonard. 5 Bells.

1. AMOS BASS AND RICHARD COOK CHURCHWARDENS JOSEPH EAYRE FECIT 1769.
(Diam. 29½ in., height 21 in.)

2, 3. CHAMDLER MADE ME 1652.
(Diams. 30½, 33 in., heights 22, 24½ in.)

4. C. & G. MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON 1844.
(Diam. 37½ in., height 26½ in.)

5. WILLIAM MARKES AND [□ 62] FRANCES [□ 62] HOYT CHVRCHWARDENS. HENRY BAGLEY MADE ME 1684.
(Diam. 39 in., height 29 in.)

For Stamp, see p. 78.

In 1552 "Stachedene" had:

"Item iiij belles in the steple."*

STANBRIDGE.

S. John Baptist. 5 Bells.

1. RICHARD CHANDLER MADE ME 1709.
(Diam. 30 in., height 27 in.)

2. F: ELLINGHAM C: W:
JOHN BRIANT HERTFORD FECIT 1807.
(Diam. 32 in., height 26 in.)

* *Land Revenue Records.* Bundle 1392. File 2. P.R.Off.

3. [+ 56] WILLIAM PRENTIS C.W. 1637 [IK 53].
(Diam. 35 in., height 29 in.)

4. Be it known to all that do me se William Emerton of Wootton made me ○ ○ 1775.
Thomas Eames
John Cooper Churchwardens
(Diam. 37 in., height 32 in.)

5. GEORGE CHANDLER MADE ME 1725.
(Diam. 39 in., height 33 in., unhung.)

For Stamps, see p. 75.

These bells are very good ones, and would, if put into good order, make a very nice ring. The tenor is, unfortunately, now unringable, having "dropped" on the stocks, and so requires rehanging.

There is in this parish some land called "Bell Rope Land," situate at Millfield. It is traditionally believed to have been left to the parish by Henry Honner, who, according to a tablet to his memory in the chancel of the church, died on the 27th of May, 1627, in the 95th year of his age.

The income arising from Bell Rope Land, which stands in the names of the churchwardens in the Land Tax Assessment for 1880, does not now appear to be applied for the benefit of the bells, or in the purchase of the bell-ropes.

STAUGHTON PARVA.

All Saints. 5 Bells.

1. MILES ⁘ GRAYE ⁘ MADE ⁘ ME ⁘ 1654.
(Diam. 27½ in., height 22½ in., cracked.)

2. LET ALL MEN PRAYSE THE LORD 1628.
(Diam. 29½ in., height 24 in.)

3. JOS: EAYRE Sᵀ NEOTS FECIT. LEONARD WYE AND ROBERT BAXTER CHURCHWARDENS.
(Diam. 32 in., height 26 in.)

4. [+ 4] Sit Nomen Domini Benedictum [+ 3 ▽ 5].
(Diam. 34½ in., height 27 in.)

5. MILES ⁘ GRAYE ⁘ MADE ⁘ ME ⁘ 1654.
(Diam. 38½ in., height 30 in., no cannons.)

For Stamps, see p. 45. The capitals of the inscription on the 4th bell are crowned.

STEPPINGLEY.

S. Laurence. 4 Bells.

1. CHRISTOPHER GRAYE MADE ME 1660.
(Diam. 26 in., height 20 in.)

2, 4. W . PHILLIPS . CHURCHWARDEN. R : TAYLOR S[T] NEOTS. FOUNDER 1807.
(Diams. 28, 34 in., heights 20½, 25½ in.)

3. W : PHILLIPS & T : COOK. C : WARDENS. R : TAYLOR . S[T] NEOTS . FECIT . 1814.
And on sound-bow :—
J : PARKER : TIDCOMB MY BENEFACTOR.
(Diam. 31 in., height 22 in.)

Mr. John Parker, Tidcombe—the benefactor to the 3rd bell—was baptized here on the 24th of November, 1739, and was buried here on the 26th of March, 1818. He was the son of Mr. John Tidcombe, who died in this parish and was buried here on the 3rd day of April, 1768, aged 59 years, and the grandson of "Mr. Michael Tidcombe, gentleman," of Atworth, near Bradford, Wiltshire.*

STEVINGTON.

S. Mary. 5 Bells.

1. JAMES BARWELL FOUNDER BIRMINGHAM 1872.
(Diam. 31 in., height 25 in.)

2, 3. JOHN ◇ HODSON ◇ MADE ◇ ME ◇ 1654 I L ◇ H N ◇ CHVRCH W.
(Diams. 32, 35 in., heights 25½, 27 in.)

4. JOHN ◇ HODSON ◇ MADE ◇ MEE ◇ 1654 ◇ I L ◇ H N ◇ C W ◇ W H
(Diam. 38 in., height 29 in.)

5. JOHN ◇ HODSON ◇ MADE ◇ MEE ◇ 1654 JOHN ◇ LATTON ◇ HENRY ◇ NEGOVS [†] W ◇ H ◇ CHVRCHWARDENS.
(Diam. 42 in., height 32 in. † *Fleur-de-lys.*)

---

* Steppingley *Par. Reg.*, kindly supplied by Rev. Dr. Smyth.

STONDON.

ALL SAINTS. 1 BELL.

The single bell here is small, and has no inscription.

STOTFOLD.

S. MARY. 3 BELLS.

1. THOMAS RUSSELL OF WOOTTON MADE ME:
RICHARD SEXTON AND JOHN FENSHAM + CHURCHWARDENS 1740 ○ ○ ○
(Diam. 30½ in.)

2. [+ 28] SANCTE : PETRE : ORA : PRO : NOBIS.
(Diam. 36½ in., wheel broken, not used.)

3. MILES ⁘ GRAYE ⁘ MADE ⁘ ME ⁘ 1615.
(Diam. 38½ in.)

For Stamp on the 2nd bell, see p. 55.

There is an impression in the village that there were formerly five bells here, and that one of the two missing ones now hangs at Astwick.

It may be mentioned that a former Vicar of Stotfold—the Rev. Samuel Roe, M.A., Fellow of Trinity College, the author of works against enthusiasm, etc.—was a ringer, being admitted a "Cambridge Youth" in 1733.*

STREATLEY.

S. MARGARET. 1 BELL & A PRIEST'S BELL.

1. T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1832.
(Diam. 26 in.)

Priest's Bell:—
Blank.
(Diam. 17 in.)

There was formerly a second large bell, but it fell, whilst being rung, to the floor of the tower, broke into pieces, and was never replaced.

---

* See Dr. Raven's *Bells of Cambridgeshire* (2nd Ed.) p. 109.

STUDHAM.

S. Mary. 4 Bells.

1, 2. CHAVDLER MADE ME 1666.

3. [+ 45] PRIES THE LORD 1599.

4. [+ 55] GOD [□ 58] SAVE [□ 58] OVR [□ 58] KING [□ 58] 1627 [I K 53].

For Stamps, see pp. 68, 75 and 76.

SUNDON.

S. Mary. 1 Bell.

1. [+ 29] AVE [□ 30] MARIA.

(Diam. 36 in.)

For Stamps, see p. 55.

It is said here that there were formerly five bells, and four were sold years ago to the parish of Toddington, since which time, it is further said, this place has never prospered.

SUTTON.

All Saints. 4 Bells.

1, 3. C. & G. MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON 1856.

(Diams. 30, 32 in., heights 24, 24½ in.)

2, 4. CHRISTOPHER ·⁝· GRAIE ·⁝· MADE ME 1655.

(Diams. 31½, 35½ in., heights 22½ 25 in.)

TEMPSFORD.

S. Peter. 5 Bells.

1, 3. MILES ·⁝· GRAIE ·⁝· 1656.

(Diams. 26½, 29½ in., heights 19½, 23 in.)

2. RICHARD CHANDLER MADE ME 1703.

(Diam. 27½ in., height 20 in.)

4. NEWCOME MADE ME Aº 1611.

(Diam. 33½ in., height 24½ in.)

5. T. Mears of London Fecit 1829.

(Diam. 36½ in., height 26½ in.)

THURLEIGH.

S. Peter. 5 Bells.

1. RUSSELL OF WOOTTON MADE ME 1743.
+ Samuel Redman and Richard Evins Churchwardens.
(Diam. 34 in., height 24 in.)

2. GOD [□ 40] SAVE [□ 40] THE [□ 40] QUEENE [□ 40] 1593 [▽ 39].
(Diam. 36 in., height 28 in.)

3. OLLIVER HARVE ESQVIRE. GEORGE FRANCKLIN JVSTIS OF PEACE 1595 +
RECAST BY PARISHIONERS 1864. THE ORIGINAL INSCRIPTION RESTORED BY THE MARQUIS OF BRISTOL AND JOHN HARVEY OF ICKWELLBURY ESQUIRE.
G Mears & Co Founders London Henry Pain Bedford Agent.
(Diam. 34 in., height 27½ in.)

4. Blank.
(Diam. 36½ in., height 30 in.)

5. [+ 29] AVE : MARIA.
(Diam. 43 in., height 35 in.)

For Stamps, see pp. 61, 60 and 55, and for specimens of the letters on the 2nd bell, see p. 59.

The Herveys were seated here as early as the reign of Edward I., when John de Hervey, having married Joan, daughter and heir of John Harman, of Thurleigh, died here in the 21st year of that King's reign. From him descended George Hervey, who was High Sheriff of Bedfordshire. He married, having issue by his wife only one daughter, Joan, who (though married) died apparently in her father's life-time, without issue. George Hervey, however—according to Lysons—had an illegitimate son, Gerard, by Margaret Smart. By his will, proved in 1526, he left certain property to that Margaret Smart for her life, remainder to her son Gerard and his heirs, and also to the same Gerard his manor of Thurleigh. Gerard Smart took the name of Hervey, was Knighted, and was M.P. for Bedford in 1553: his grandson was the "Olliver Harve, Esquire," whose name is on the 3rd bell. His descendants continued

at Thurleigh till the death of John Hervey, Esq., in 1715, but the manor had passed out of the family before that time. From Thomas Hervey, a younger brother of George Hervey above mentioned, are descended the Herveys of Ickworth, Earls of Bristol.

The Franklins had a seat here for several generations.*

Here are the following

RULES FOR RINGERS.

If to ring you do come Here
You must ring well with Hand and Ear
And if a Bell you chance to Throw
Six-Pence to Pay before you go—
And if you Ring in Spurs or Hat
Twelve-Pence in all to pay for that.

TILBROOK.

ALL SAINTS. 3 BELLS.

1. MATTHEW BAGLEY MADE MEE 1682 ○ ○ ○ ○ ○
(Diam. 27½ in., height 22 in.)

2. OLIVER S[T] JOHN COOPER RECTOR. G JAMES AND JOHN SANSAM CHURCHWARDENS 1763.
(Diam. 29 in., height 24½ in.)

3. NON CLAMOR SED AMOR CANTAT IN AVRE IED 1625.
(Diam. 32½ in., height 24½ in.)

The letters of "Dei" on the 3rd bell are reversed.

The Parish Register has the following entries relating to the Rector named on the 2nd bell :—

O S[t] John Cooper was inducted into the Rectory
of Tilbrooke March the 26[th] 1738.
Oliver S[t] John Cooper Rector of Tilbrook was buried
in the Parish Church Nov[br] 1, 1781.†

* See a pedigree of the Hervey family in *Stemmata Chicheliana ;* and see also "Lysons," vol. i. p. 140.

† Kindly extracted for me by the Rev. N. D. Young, the present Rector.

TILSWORTH.

ALL SAINTS. 5 BELLS.

1, 4. EMERTON OF WOOTTON FECIT 1776.
(Diams. 29, 32 in., heights 21, 26 in.)

2. JOHN SWINSTEAD D : ELLINGHAM WARDEN.
W : EMERTON OF WOOTTON FECIT 1776.
(Diam. 29 in., height 23 in.)

3. EMERTON OF WOOTTON FECIT ○ ○
DANIEL ELLINGHAM CHURCHWARDEN 1776.
WILLIAM BALLS
JOHN ONEY
HENRY PURRETT
THOMAS SKIKELTHORP.
(Diam. 31 in., height 25 in.)

5. EMERTON OF WOOTON NEAR BEDFORD FECIT 1776
DANIEL ELLINGHAM CHURCHWARDEN
JOHN PARTRIDGE SENOR
JOHN PARTRIDGE JUNOR
WILLIAM DOVER.
(Diam. 34 in., height 27 in., cracked.)

The parishioners of Tilsworth were formerly proud of their bells and their excellent ringers; but for some years the bells were only heard upon absolutely necessary occasions. The tenor was cracked in a thunder-storm, and in consequence was not used; in 1821, however, a piece fell out, and the sound greatly improved. Recently (in 1880) the whole ring was rehung, and now again the ringers are at work, and the sound of their bells again cheers the Tilsworth folk.

There is an excellent set of rules for the guidance of the ringers.

TINGRITH.

S. NICHOLAS. 3 BELLS.

1. John § dier § made § this § bell 3
(Diam. 28 in., height 20½ in.)

2. CHRISTOPHER GRAYE MADE ME 1660.
(Diam. 29½ in., height 22½ in.)

3. [▽ 9 + 10] Sancta Margareta Ora Por Nobis [□ 8].
(Diam. 32½ in., height 24 in.)

For Stamps on the 3rd bell, see pp. 46 and 47.

In 1552 "Tyngrythe" possessed

> Item in the stepull of the saide churche iij belles weynge by estymation xxv hundred wyght.*

It may be noticed that the stone of the arched doorway leading up to the bells is much worn away, as if some one had sat upon the stairs and there chimed the bells, chafing the ropes against the stone. Such was really the case prior to the restoration of the church, when "old Jim Smart," the then sexton, fearing that the clappers of the bells, which were then unsafe, might fall upon him, adopted that plan as a means of precaution against such an accident. The bells were afterwards reclappered; the old clappers are now in the bell-chamber, and the bells are all in good order and sound.

TODDINGTON.

S. George. 8 Bells and a Priest's Bell.

1. C. & G. MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON 1850.
(Diam. 30½ in., height 23 in.)

2, 3, 4, 8. Thos Mears Late Lester Pack & Chapman of London Fecit 1792 Thos Hollis & Harry Osborn Churchwardens.
(Diams. 31½, 33, 35½, 51½ in., heights 23½, 25, 26, 35½ in.)

5, 6. Thos Mears Late Lester Pack & Chapman of London Fecit 1792.
(Diams. 38½, 41 in., height 28½, 30 in.)

7. Thos Mears of London Late Lester Pack & Chapman Fecit 1792.
(Diam. 45 in., height 33 in.)

Priest's Bell:—

CHANDLER MADE ME.
(Diam. 16½ in., height 13 in.)

See under Sundon for a tradition relating to these bells: the parish documents here having been lost there are no proofs for or against its truth.

Here are chimes for the quarters, placed in 1876 at the expense of the Rev. John Clegg.

* *Land Revenue Records.* Bundle 1392, File 2. P. R. Off.

TOTTERNHOE.

S. Giles. 5 Bells

1. CHAVDLER MADE ME 1655.
(Diam. 30 in., height 26 in.)

2. CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1865.
[*Royal* ▽ *Arms.*]
Patent.
(Diam. 31 in., height 26 in.)

3, 4, 5. CHAVDLER MADE ME 1654.
(Diams. 33, 35, 38 in., height 26, 30, 31 in.)

The tenor bell is badly cracked, and is now without a clapper. A few years ago the clapper fell out, and it was sent to a blacksmith to repair. He, thinking to improve it, made it longer and larger, in consequence of which, when replaced in the bell, it struck below the sound-bow, and after striking a few times broke and ruined the bell: a warning to all in whose care bells are placed to employ competent persons for their repair.

TURVEY.

All Saints. 6 Bells.

1. G. MEARS & Co. FOUNDERS LONDON.
PRESENTED TO HIS BROTHER PARISHIONERS BY Lt. COL. W. B. HIGGINS, OF PICTS HILL, TURVEY, SEPTEMBER, 1864.
(Diam. 32 in., height 27 in.)

2. THOMAS BURTON AND JOSEPH OSMOND CHVRCH-WARDENS, 1682.
(Diam. 31 in., height 28 in.)

3. HENRY BAGLEY MADE MEE 1682.
(Diam. 34 in., height 27 in.)

4. + + R : HOPLEY RECTOR T : DAVISON AND W : SKEVINGTON CHURCHWARDENS + J : EAYRE St NEOTS FECIT 1750.
(Diam. 38½ in., height 28½ in.)

5. W & J TAYLOR BELLFOUNDERS OXFORD & LOUGHBORO'. 1839.
(Diam. 41 in., height 30 in.)

6. T : BATTAMS & W : PEARSON C : WARDENS R TAYLOR Sᵀ NEOTS FECIT 1815.
(Diam. 46 in., height 34 in., large piece out of shoulder.)

Prior to 1864, when Colonel Higgins gave a new treble, there were five bells only. The donor died in the autumn of 1878.

There was formerly a Sanctus bell, which, after standing for many years on the floor of the chancel, was sent to the founders and added to the tenor in 1815, when that bell was recast.

The Rev. R. Hopley (see 4th bell) is said to have been instituted in June, 1745.* From the Registers, however, it would appear that the only resident clergyman between 1727 and 1750 was "Matthew Keate, curate." Mr. Hopley's handwriting first appears in the latter year. He was succeeded by the Rev. J. Griffith in June, 1764, so probably he died in that year, but there is no record of his burial.

In the ringing-chamber are three memorial tablets to deceased ringers; such a mode of remembrance might well be adopted in other churches. There is also an oil painting depicting the scene described in S. John xxi. 21. It was given to the church by the Rev. Erasmus Middleton, instituted Rector in 1803, and had been placed over the altar-table, where it remained until the church was restored in 1852.†

WARDEN, OLD.

S. Andrew. 4 Bells.

1. MILES ·⁝· GRAYE ·⁝· MADE ·⁝· ME ·⁝· 1653.
(Diam. 29½ in., height 22½ in., cracked.)

2. VBCD [‡] ЯƧLA [‡] HIKTIK [‡] GHIK W.
(Diam. 32½ in., height 25 in. ‡ *Fleur-de-lys.*)

3. [+ 28] ✠ : AVDI : ΩOS.
(Diam. 36 in., height 28 in.)

4. THOMAS MEARS FOUNDER LONDON 1840.
(Diam. 39½ in., height 29½ in.)

For Stamp on 3rd bell, see p. 55.

The friend who inspected the bells for me writes:—"Horrible place to get up; nearly pitch dark; the steepest ladder I have ever been up."

---

* *History of Willey Hundred.* † *Ex infor.* the Rev. G. F. W. Munby.

WESTONING.

S. Mary Magdalen. 5 Bells.

1. ANTHONY CHANDLER MADE ME 1672.
(Diam. 29 in., height 24 in.)

2. + RUSSELL OF WOOTTON ○ ○ ○ MADE + ME 1743.
(Diam. 33 in., height 25 in.)

3. T. Mears of London Fecit 1829.
Wm Woodward } Church Wardens 1829.
Ed Aldridge }
(Diam. 34½ in., height 26 in.)

4. RICHARD CHANDLER MADE ME 1722.
(Diam. 36½ in., height 28½ in.)

5. RUSSELL OF WOOTTON HE MADE ME IN SEVENTEEN HUNDRED AND FORTY THREE + JOSEPH HARLEY AND EDWARD BURR CHURCHWARDENS ○ ○ ○
(Diam. 41 in., height 32 in.)

In the "Inventory of plate, jewels, vestments, ornaments, and bells belonging to the parish church of Westonynge, in the county of Bedford, made 2 Sept., 6 Ed. 6" (1552) is:—

> Item in the stepull of the seyde churche iiij belles to [two] of the seyde belles weyng by estymation xvij hundred and a half, the other to grete belles xx^ti hundred by estimation and a saunce bell, to hand belles. Item to sacarynge belles. Item the churche chauncell steple all covered w^t leed.*

WHIPSNADE.

S. Mary Magdalen. 3 Bells.

1. E. HALL 1740.
2. T. HALL 1740.
3. GOD SAVE OVR KING 1630.

These are three small bells.

---

* *Land Revenue Records.* Bundle 1392, File 2, P. R. Off.

WILDEN.

S. Nicolas. 5 Bells.

1. A SMITH W GROVE 1649.
   (Diam. 30½ in., height 25 in.)
2. [+ 6] Sancta Katrina Ora Pro Nobis [□ S ▽ 7].
   (Diam. 32 in., height 24 in., cracked.)
3. ABCD EFGH IKL MNO [▽ 39].
   (Diam. 34 in., height 27 in.)
4. CHANDLER MADE ME.
   (Diam. 37 in., height 27 in.)
5. IH'S NAZARENUS REX IVDEORVM FILI DEI MISERERE MEI 1637 [▽ 39].
   (Diam. 40 in., height 32 in.)

For Stamps, see pp. 46 and 60, and for specimens of letters on the 3rd and 5th bells, see pp. 59 and 63.

A. Smith and W. Grove (see 1st bell) were the churchwardens at that time, as is shown by their initials cut on a beam in the belfry, thus :—

AS : WG : G : 1650.

WILLINGTON.

S. Laurence. 5 Bells.

1. WILLIAM GOSTWICK OF WILLINGTON 1600 [▽ 39].
   (Diam. 27½ in., height 21½ in.)
2. THOMAS TOMPION FECIT 1671.
   (Diam. 28½ in., height 21½ in., cracked).
3. SIR ⋮ WILLIAM ⋮ GOSTWICK ⋮ BARN ⋮ WILLINGTON ⋮ 1710 ⋮ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○
   (Diam. 31 in., height 24 in.)
4. 3 1951 3 MI 3 MVIR 3 DVRY 3 ZHOI
   (Diam. 35 in., height 27 in.)
5. O Martir Xpofore Pro Nobis Semper Orate [+ 15 ▽ 16 ▽ 14].
   (Diam. 38½ in., height 31½ in., large piece out of the sound-bow.)

For Stamps, see pp. 60 and 50, and for specimens of the letters on the 1st bell, see p. 59.

The inscription on the 4th bell is reversed throughout: that cannot be entirely shown in ordinary type.

The Gostwicks (see 1st and 3rd bells) were living here early in the thirteenth century; there is a memorial brass in the church to the memory of Robert Gostwick, who died a century later—in 1315. Leland mentions, "Mr Gostwick beyng borne at Willingtoun," and that he "boute this lordship of the Duke of Norfolk, now lyving, and hath made a sumptuous new building of brike & tymbre a *fundimentis* in it, with a conduct of water derivid in leade pipes." Sir John Gostwick was Master of the Horse to Henry VIII. He built—in 1541—the mortuary chapel attached to the chancel of Willington church, in which various members of his family are buried. His descendant, William Gostwick—whose name is on the 1st bell—was lord of the manor of Willington, and was created a baronet in 1612. He died in 1615, aged 49 years, and is buried in the mortuary chapel just mentioned. There is a handsome monument there to his memory, in good preservation, with a recumbent figure of him in alabaster, with a wooden canopy over it, erected by his widow Jane, daughter of Henry Owen, Esq., by whom he had seven sons and four daughters. His descendant, Sir William Gostwick—whose name is on the 3rd bell—long represented the county of Bedford in Parliament. Having impoverished his estate by frequent election contests, this manor, amongst others, was sold in 1731 to Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough. It is now the property of the Duke of Bedford, whose ancestor bought it of the Marlborough family in 1774. There is a portrait of this Sir Wm. Gostwick at Mr. Whitbread's, Southill, with a warning subscript against electioneering extravagance. He was the last buried in the family vault here. There is no monument to his memory, but when the vault gave way some years ago, his coffin was exposed, and the present vicar saw the silver plate on it bearing the name of Sir William Gostwick, of Willington Park.* The title and family are now extinct.

WILSHAMPSTEAD.

ALL SAINTS. 1 BELL AND A PRIEST'S BELL.

1. EMMERTON OF WOOTTON FECIT 1783 ○ ○ ○ ○

* *Ex infor.* Rev. Augustus Orlebar, vicar of the parish.

Priest's Bell:—

GEORGE MORTON C^H WARDEN 1826.

There were formerly four bells and a Priest's bell. The following extracts from the fly-leaf of the Parish Register explain how three of them were lost to the parish :—

> Memorandum. The Tower fell down on Sunday night, April 11, 1742, at half an hour after 9.
>
> The Bricklayers and Carpenters Estimate to make good y^e^ breach in the church which the Tower made in falling, and to hang up one bell, the old materials included, 45*l.* 0 0.
>
> Charles Boomer. Thomas White.
> John White. John Rentham.
>
> July 17^th^, 1742.
>
> The Bricklayers and Carpenters Estimate to rebuild the Tower, finding workmanship and all materials, 474*l.* 12.

After these entries is the Bishop's license to sell the bells, thus :—

> Having considered the extent of y^e^ disaster, and the inability of the Parishioners to repair the steeple according to its ancient dimensions, and confiding in the Vicar's representation, I approve of their repairing the downfall according to this latter scheme, and consent y^t^ the Vicar and Churchwardens may sell three of their bells towards their expence on this occasion.
>
> R. Lincoln,
> Sept^r^ 17, 1742.

The three bells were sold for £45 to, as is generally believed, the vicar and churchwardens of Hendon, Middlesex. As might be expected, the following distich soon became current :—

> Wilstead folks, wicked people,
> Sold their bells to build the steeple.

That steeple was an open wooden one, in which the two bells hung exposed to the air. The present tower was not built until the year 1851.

WOBURN [Old Church.]

S. Mary. 8 Bells.

1, 2. MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1877.
(Diams. 26, 27½ in.)

3, 4, 5, 7, 8. T. Mears of London Fecit 1829.
(Diams. 32½, 34½, 36, 40, 42 in.)

6. His Grace John 5th Duke of Bedford. The Revd Thomas Roy.
Joseph Tween
William Freeman } Church Wardens a d 1829.
T Mears of London Fecit 1829.

The Monastery here appears to have possessed five bells (see p. 17). According to an Inventory taken in 1651 there were then

Three broken Bells with Clappers.
One whole Bell.
One iron Clock with a Bell proper to it.
One Saint's Bell.

Shortly afterwards four broken bells are mentioned.

In 1664 the bells were recast at an expense of about £120, of which £90 was given by the Earl of Bedford.

In 1724 a fifth bell was added, or the clock bell utilized as a ringing bell.

In 1829, two of the five bells being broken, and the others out of tune, they were taken down and sent to the Whitechapel foundry, from which the present larger six bells were received and hung in time to be rung on the Proclamation of William IV. as King. The following are the weights of these bells (the present 3—8) as taken down at the time of the late Mr. John Price, and preserved in his diary :—

			cwts.	*qrs.*	*lbs.*
Treble	1.	(present 3)	5	2	7
weight without clappers	2.	(„ 4)	6	0	2
	3.	(„ 5)	6	1	4
	4.	(„ 6)	7	1	17
	5.	(„ 7)	9	3	26
Tenor	6.	(„ 8)	12	3	19
			48	0	19

In 1877 the ring was increased, as the bells show, to eight, by the addition

of two trebles; the augmented ring was opened on the 16th of April in that year.

In 1829, when the church tower was being rebuilt, and the five bells were taken down to be recast, the Saint's bell mentioned in the 1651 Inventory, and which hung in an "open cupola supported by eight pilasters" on the top of the tower, was removed (with the Fire-Bell from the old Town Hall) to the Park Farm, from which it was subsequently stolen.

It has been pointed out that there is an error in the inscription on the 6th bell. The Duke of Bedford thereon mentioned was the 6th, not the 5th, Duke.

The bells here hang in two tiers of four each; the 3rd, 5th, 7th, and tenor hang below, and the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 6th above. The clock strikes on the 6th: the small space in the tower has necessitated great care in the hanging of the bells. The ringing chamber (as well as its approaches) is in excellent order, is a model of cleanliness, and a pattern of what such a place should be.

The bells are fitted with "Seage's Tell Tales," which enable the ringers to practise as much and as long as they choose, without causing any annoyance to the people living in the close neighbourhood of the tower.

WOBURN [New Church].

S. Mary. 1 Bell.

1. MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON 1867.
(Diam. 63 in., height 43 in., weight 2 tons 15 cwts.)

This is the largest bell in the county.

WOOTTON.

S. Mary. 5 Bells and a Priest's Bell.

1. WILLIAM EMMERTON OF WOOTTON FECIT 1779.
(Diam. 34 in., height 24 in.)

2, 4. I: TAYLOR & Co. FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH 1874.
(Diams. 35½, 41½ in., heights 27, 29½ in.)

3. Thomas Rvssell:
William Rvssell: Fecit
Stephen Hvdson:
Benjaman Rainbow: Chyrchwardens 1736 ○ ○ ○ ○
Christopher Fleming ○ ○ ○
Thomas Slater John Slater ○ ○ ○ ○ ○
(Diam. 38½ in., height 28½ in.)

5. [+ 56] GOD SAVE OVR KING 1641 J H.
(Diam. 44 in., height 34 in.)

Priest's Bell (*in turret*):—
1748.
(Diam. 14 in., height 11 in.)

For Stamp on the 5th bell, see p. 75.

On the back of an old book belonging to the church are the following dates of the bells: we learn from the list the date of the previous 4th bell:—

Treble Bell	...	...	1779.
Second [no date or description, so the bell was probably a pre-Reformation one].			
Third ...	...	...	1736.
Fourth	...	...	1595.
Tenor ...	...	...	1641.
Sanctus	...	...	1748.

WRESTLINGWORTH.

S. Peter. 1 Bell.

1. R. TAYLOR & SON FOUNDERS ST NEOTS 1820 I : FOBIGG C : W.
(Diam. 28½ in., height 20 in.)

There are frames for two more bells which are now wanting.

WYMINGTON.

S. Laurence. 6 Bells.

1. THE GIFT OF STEPHEN WOLLASTON ESQ. TO THE PARISH CHURCH OF WYMINGTON BEDFORDSHIRE IN HONOR AND PRAISE OF GOD, 1873. WILLIAM MONK RECTOR. WILLIAM BLEWS AND SONS FOUNDERS BIRMINGHAM.
(Diam. 27½ in., heights 23 in., unhung.)

2. I. TAYLOR FECIT LOUGHBRO' LATE OF ST NEOTS 1843.
(Diam. 30½ in., height 25 in.)

3. Nomen Magdalena Campana Gerit Melodie [▽ 12 □ 10 ▽ 13].
(Diam. 34 in., height 28 in.)

4. Sit Nomen Domini Benedictum [▽ 12 □ 10 ▽ 13].
(Diam. 37 in., height 28 in.)

5. Musa Rafaelis Sonat Auribus & Manibus [▽ 12 □ 10 ▽ 13].
(Diam. 39 in., height 29 in.)

6. JOHN ACHURCH C : WARDEN. R : TAYLOR S[T] NEOTS . FECIT . 1814.
(Diam. 44 in., height 30½ in.)

For Stamps on the 3rd, 4th and 5th bells, see pp. 47 and 50.

Prior to 1783 there were five bells only. In that year an additional treble bell was given, as shown above. Though presented to the parish, it has not yet—1881—been hung, but stands on the floor of the church.

According to Weever (*Funeral Monuments*, Introd. cxix.)—who, however, is not quite correct in his copies of the inscriptions on the present ancient bells—the two recast (2nd and 6th) were previously inscribed :—

2. Hoc signum Petri pulsatur nomine Christi.
6. Sum rosa pulsata mundique Maria vocata.

There is said to have been formerly also a Sanctus bell here, inscribed : —

George ora pro nobis.

YIELDEN.

S. Mary. 4 Bells.

1. T. & J. EAYRE FECERUNT.
GRATA SIT ARGUTA RESONANS CAMPANULA VOCE ○ R : GELL & W : SAMWORTH CHURCHWARDENS ○ OCTOB 1717.
(Diam. 27½ in., height 22½ in.)

2. BRYANVS ELDRIDGE ME FECIT 1660.
(Diam. 29 in., height 22½ in.)

3. PRAISE THE LORD 1617.
(Diam. 32 in., height 23½ in.)

4. ABCDE FGHIKLMO OPQRST 1610 [▽ 39].
(Diam. 34 in., height 25 in.)

For Stamp and specimens of letters on the 4th bell, see pp. 60 and 59.

GOD'S APPOINTMENT

IS

MY CONTENTMENT.

INDEX.

Abingdon, ancient bells at, 3.
Advent ringing, 107.
Æthelwold, S., casts bells, 3.
Agnus-bell, 103.
Ampthill, a bell foundry at, 42, 122.
Ampthill bells, 42, 79, 87, 91, 96, 114.
Angelus, the, 104.
Anthem bell, 102.
Arlesey bells, 21, 89, 107, 107, 108, 109, 122.
Arnold, Edward, a bellfounder, 65, 79.
Ascension-day peals, 108.
Aspley Guise bells, 87, 91, 94, 97, 107, 107, 108, 124.
Astwick bell, 125.
Atton, Bartholomew, a bellfounder, 73.
Atton, Robert, a bellfounder, 73.
Atton, William, a bellfounder, 73.
Atton, William and Son, bellfounders, 73.

Bagley, Henry, a bellfounder, 77.
Bagley, Henry (2nd), a bellfounder, 77.
Bagley, Matthew, a bellfounder, 77.
Bagley, William, a bellfounder, 77.
Banns peals, 110.
"Baptism" of bells, 4.
Barford, Great, bells, 63, 96, 107, 107, 112, 125.
Barford, Little, bells, 126.
Bartlett, Anthony, a bellfounder, 82.
Bartlett, James, a bellfounder, 82.
Bartlett, Thomas, a bellfounder, 82.
Barton-le-Clay bells, 40, 88, 94, 107, 107, 109, 113, 127.
Barwell, James, a bellfounder, 80.
Battlesden bells, 97, 103, 113, 127.
Battlesden house-bell, 82.
Bede (A.D. 680) mentions bells, 3.
Bedford Ringers, "Epigram" to, 23.
Bedford Ringers, an "Exasticke" presented to, 25.
Bedford, S. Mary's, bells, 36, 41, 51, 62, 88, 92, 96, 114, 114, 131.
Bedford, S. Paul's, bells, 28, 82, 91, 95, 104, 106, 112, 114, 128.
Bedford, S. Peter's, bells, 62, 88, 91, 92, 92, 93, 113, 114, 130.
Bedford, S. Cuthbert's, bell, 91, 96, 132.
Bedford, S. John Baptist, bell, 131.
Bedford, Holy Trinity, bell, 132.
Bedfordshire bells, *temp.* Ed. VI., certificate missing, 10.
Bedfordshire chantries, certificate relating to, 10.
Bedfordshire bells, commission relating to, in 1552, 11, 19.
Bedfordshire religious houses, bells belonging to some, 16.
Bedfordshire, ringing in, 22.
Bedfordshire Association of Change-ringers, 32, 115.
Bedfordshire, Church Bells of, 33.
Bedfordshire bellfounders, 37.
Bedfordshire bells, other founders of, 43.
Bedfordshire bells, peculiar uses of, 85.
Bedfordshire bells, Latin Inscriptions on, with translations, 117.
Bedfordshire bells, Latin inscriptions on, 121.
Bellfounders, Bedfordshire, 37.
Bells, use of, universal, 2.
Bells cast in churches and churchyards, 4.
Bells, benediction of, 4.
Bells, forms of inscription on, 6.
Bells, oldest dated in England, 6.
Bells, how used before the Reformation, 8, 86.
Bells, ancient, why scarce, 21.
Bells formerly rung by the deacons, 87.
Benediction of bells, 4.
Bett, Thomas, a bellfounder, 57.
Biddenham bells, 91, 110, 132.
Biggleswade bells, 96, 107, 108, 133.

Billington bell, 133.
Bingham, Notts, a bell at, 60.
Birmingham bellfounders, 80.
Bletsoe bells, 66, 133.
Blews and Son, bellfounders, 80.
Blunham bells, 40, 40, 62, 88, 91, 93, 96, 107, 109, 111, 112, 113, 134.
Bolnhurst bells, 35, 112, 135.
Bracker, Austen, a bellfounder, 52.
Briant, John, a bellfounder, 70.
Bride's peal, the, 110.
Bromham bells, 66, 136.
Buckingham, bellfoundry at, 73.
Bullisdon, —, a bellfounder, 53.
"Bunyan's bell," 36, 80.
Burial peals, 100.
Bushmead Priory, bells of, 17, 18.
Bydenhambridge, Chantry of, bells, 11.

Caddington bells, 83, 91, 92, 97, 137.
Caldwell Priory, bells of, 17, 18.
Campana, a large bell, 2.
Campton bells, 35, 35, 43, 62, 138.
Canons of Church of England on bells, 85.
Canonical hours, ringing of, 3, 90.
Cardington bells, 65, 83, 87, 91, 92, 93, 98, 101, 106, 107, 109, 112, 113, 138.
Carlton bells, 6, 35, 35, 53, 57, 62, 87, 92, 96, 107, 112, 112, 113, 114, 140.
Carter, Joseph, a bellfounder, 82.
Carter, William, a bellfounder, 82.
Castle Ashby, Northants, a bell at, 52.
Chacombe, Northants, a bellfoundry at, 77.
Chalgrave bells, 35, 53, 75, 97, 114, 140.
Chandler, Anthony, a bellfounder, 71.
Chandler, George, a bellfounder, 72.
Chandler, Richard, a bellfounder, 70.
Chandler, Richard (2nd), a bellfounder, 72.
Chandler, Richard (3rd), a bellfounder, 72.
Chapman and Mears, bellfounders, 83.
Chellington bells, 35, 56, 73, 74, 76, 87, 92, 96, 112, 112, 113, 114, 141.
Chelsea, a bellfoundry at, 78.
Chertsey, a bellfoundry at, 77.
Chicksand Priory, bells of, 17, 18.
Chiming at funerals, 100.
China, bells used in, 2.
Christians, early, mode of calling together, 1.
Church bells, 1.
Clapham bells, 35, 76, 96, 114, 141.
Clarke, John, a bellfounder, 67.
Claughton, Lancashire, early dated bell at, 6.
Clay, Thomas, a bellfounder, 65.
Clifton bells, 35, 36, 58, 89, 99, 112, 142.
Clophill bells, 75, 97, 143.
Colchester, a bellfoundry at, 74.
Cold Ashby, Northants, early dated bell at, 6.
Colmworth bells, 74, 75, 76, 144.
Commemorative Services, 101.
Common or mote-bell, 113.
Cople bells, 7, 34, 50, 75, 89, 100, 107, 107, 109, 114, 144.
Corse-bell, 104.
Cranfield bells, 41, 81, 81, 88, 91, 97, 103, 105, 106, 107, 108, 108, 111, 113, 114, 145.
Croyland Abbey, bells at, 3.
Culverden, William, a bellfounder, 44.
Curfew-bell, 103, 104.

Daily Service, a bell to be tolled for, 85.
Daily bells, other, 105.
Dean bells, 61, 62, 77, 98, 107, 108, 145.
Death-knell, the, 99.
Dedication peals, 109.
Diameters of bells, guides to their weights, 120.
Dier, John, a bellfounder, 67.
"Dinner-bell," 93.
Divine Service, modes of ringing for, 87.
Dobson, William, a bellfounder, 80.
Downham Market, a bellfoundry at, 80.
Drayton Parslow, Bucks, a bellfoundry at, 70.
Dunstable bells, 6, 34, 56, 83, 88, 91, 92, 97, 102, 102, 107, 111, 113, 114, 146.
Dunstan, S., casts bells, and draws up Rules for ringing, 3.
Dunton bells, 68, 97, 112, 114, 147.

Early Sunday peals, 90.
Early Morning-bell, 104.
Easter peals, 108.
Eaton Bray bells, 70, 72, 148.
Eaton Socon bells, 69, 78, 79, 80, 148.
Eayre, Joseph, a bellfounder, 79.
Eayre, Thomas and John, bellfounders, 79.
Eayre, Thomas, a bellfounder, 79.
Eayre, Thomas (2nd), a bellfounder, 79.
Ecton, Northants, a bellfoundry at, 77.
Edmunds, Islip, a bellfounder, 83.
Edworth bells, 7, 34, 41, 54, 68, 99, 149.
Egbert (A.D. 750) mentions bells, 3.
Egginton bells, 71, 92, 97, 107, 114, 149.
Eldridge, Bryan, a bellfounder, 77.
Elstow Nunnery, bells of, 17.
Elstow bells, 36, 40, 62, 80, 150.
Emmerton, William, a bellfounder, 38.
Epiphany peals, 108.
Eversholt bells, 87, 91, 97, 103, 105, 105, 106, 107, 108, 108, 108, 108, 108, 109, 151.

Execution bell, 112.
Eyeworth bells, 7, 35, 49, 152.

Fair peals, 110.
Fandish bells, 35, 60, 74, 75, 91, 152.
Felmersham bells, 40, 41, 63, 153.
Fire-bell, 103, 112.
Flitton bells, 153.
Flitwick bells, 67, 75, 91, 96, 101, 107, 107, 109, 153.

Gabriel-bell, 105.
Gleaning-bell, the, 112.
Goldington bells, 40, 62, 62, 87, 96, 107, 113, 114, 154.
Good Friday use, 108.
Gravenhurst, Upper, bells, 154.
Gravenhurst, Lower, bell, 82, 99, 114, 154.
Graye, Christopher, a bellfounder, 41.
Graye, Miles, a bellfounder, 42, 74.
Greeks used bells, 2.
Gunpowder Plot, ringing on 5th Nov., 113.

Hall, Edward, a bellfounder, 72.
Hand-bells, 103.
Harlington bells, 14, 35, 35, 35, 44, 58, 91, 92, 97, 107, 107, 109, 109, 113, 155.
Harrold Priory, bells of, 17, 18.
Harrold bells, 62, 62, 71, 81, 87, 96, 100, 106, 112, 112, 113, 155.
Hatley Cockayne bells, 114, 156.
Haulsey, Richard, a bellfounder, 68.
Hawnes bells, 7, 34, 75, 88, 91, 99, 113, 156.
Heath and Reach bell, 157.
Henlow bells, 75, 157.
Hertford, bellfoundries at, 70, 70.
Higham Gobion bell, 158.
Hindoos used bells, 2.
Hockliffe bells, 33, 35, 35, 35, 47, 89, 92, 97, 105, 107, 107, 108, 114, 158.
Hodson, Christopher, a bellfounder, 81.
Hodson, John, a bellfounder, 81.
Holdfield, Richard, a bellfounder, 67.
Holwell bells, 159.
Houghton Conquest bells, 87, 90, 96, 107, 111, 113, 114, 114, 159.
Houghton Regis bells, 35, 36, 41, 67, 71, 88, 91, 92, 97, 107, 107, 108, 109, 111, 112, 113, 113, 114, 161.
Houselling-bell, 104.
Hulcote bells, 35, 67, 72, 97, 100, 106, 107, 110, 114, 162.
Hull, William, a bellfounder, 81.
Husborne Crawley bells, 41, 41, 66, 88, 92, 98, 103, 107, 108, 108, 109, 110, 113, 114, 163.

Impington, Cambridgeshire, bells at, 8.
Induction bell, 114.
Inscriptions on Church Bells of Bedfordshire, 121.

Janaway, Thomas, a bellfounder, 78.
Jerome, S., mentions bells, 2.
Jews used bells, 2.
Jorden, Henry, a bellfounder, 48.

Keene, James, a bellfounder, 74.
Kempstone bells, 8, 35, 55, 61, 63, 91, 96, 111, 113, 114, 165.
Kersey, Suffolk, a bell at, 74.
Keysoe bells, 41, 79, 98, 107, 107, 108, 112, 114 165.
Knolling of the Aves, 93.
Knotting bell, 166.

Lady-day peals, 108.
Lanfranc, Rules for ringing by, 3.
Langford bells, 79, 79, 96, 110, 112, 114, 166.
Leicester bellfounders, 57.
Leighton Buzzard bells, 83, 89, 91, 92, 93, 97, 104, 107, 108, 108, 108, 109, 113, 166.
Leighton Buzzard, S. Andrew's, bell, 168.
Lenten ringing, 108.
Lester, Thomas, a bellfounder, 82.
Lester and Pack, bellfounders, 82.
Lidlington bells, 21, 35, 91, 97, 102, 114, 168.
Litany, a bell to be tolled for, 85.
London, modern, bellfounders, 81.
Loughborough bellfoundry, 66.
Loyal peals, 115.
Luffenham, South, a bell at, 58.
Luton bells, 70, 83, 102, 104, 169.
Lych-bell, 104.

Margate Priory, bells of, 17, 18.
Market-bell, the, 111.
Marston Moretaine bells, 62, 88, 90, 92, 96, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 170.
Matins, call to, 3.
Maulden bells, 34, 35, 53, 67, 170.
Mayor's peals, 114.
Mears, W. and T., bellfounders, 83.
Mears and Stainbank, bellfounders, 83.
Melchbourne bells, 62, 83, 88, 98, 107, 108, 171.
Meppershall bells, 20, 35, 70, 88, 97, 107, 107, 108, 108, 109, 112, 171.
Millbrooke bells, 21, 34, 53, 91, 97, 173.
Millers, William, a bellfounder, 57.
Milton Bryant bells, 71, 74, 75, 75, 76, 91, 97, 114, 174.

Milton Ernest bells, 41, 83, 92, 96, 109, 112, 114, 174.
Mot, Robert, a bellfounder, 82.
Mote, or common bell, 113.
Muggerhanger bell, 112, 174.
Mumby, Lincolnshire, bells at, 54.

Newcombe, Edward, a bellfounder, 40, 57.
Newcombe, Thomas, a bellfounder, 57.
Newcombe, Robert, a bellfounder, 57.
Newcombe, Thomas (2nd), a bellfounder, 57.
Newman, Thomas, a bellfounder, 78.
Newnham Priory, bells of, 18.
New Year's Eve, ringing on, 108.
New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, ringing on, 109.
Nineveh, bells found at, 2.
Norris, Thomas, a bellfounder, 76.
Norris, Tobias, a bellfounder, 76.
Norris, Tobias (2nd), a bellfounder, 77.
Northill bells, 34, 35, 41, 52, 59, 62, 89, 91, 96, 175.

Oakley bells, 62, 63, 79, 96, 105, 106, 112, 113, 175.
Obit-days, 101.
Odell bells, 63, 74, 75, 75, 76, 91, 96, 113, 176.
Oldfield, Richard, a bellfounder, 67.
Oldfield, Robert, a bellfounder, 69.
Osborn, Thomas, a bellfounder, 79, 80.
Oven-bell, the, 110.
Oxford, bellfoundry at, 66.

Pack, Thomas, a bellfounder, 82.
Pack and Chapman, bellfounders, 83.
Palmer, W., of Bedford, and his sons, 23.
Pancake-bell, 106.
Passing-bell, 85, 94.
Pavenham bells, 41, 62, 75, 81, 81, 87, 96, 112, 114, 176.
Peals, first and second, 90.
Peculiar Uses of the Bedfordshire Bells, 85.
Persians used bells, 2.
Pertenhall bells, 81, 89, 90, 92, 92, 97, 107, 110, 112, 113, 114, 177.
Phelp, Richard, a bellfounder, 82.
Poem addressed to a bellfounder, 28.
Polluxhill bell, 177.
"Potatoe-bell," the, 93.
Pottesgrove bells, 72, 97, 105, 110, 114, 177.
Potton bells, 78, 78, 91, 96, 111, 113, 178.
Priest's bell, or Ting-Tang, 102.
Public rejoicings, peals on, 114.
"Pudding-bell," 93.
Puddington bells, 62, 66, 74, 75, 178.

Ravensden bells, 62, 179.
Reading, hallowing a bell at, 5.
Renhold bells, 179.
Restoration of Charles II., ringing on anniversary of, 111.
Ridgmount bells, 21, 179, 180.
Riseley bells, 63, 66, 180.
Rogers, Rev. Samuel, poem by, 28.
Romans used bells, 2.
Ropeford, Roger de, a bellfounder, 4.
Roxton bells, 36, 40, 180.
Rubric of Book of Common Prayer on bells, 85.
Russell, Thomas, a bellfounder, 37.

Sabinian, Pope (A.D. 604), used bells, 3.
Sacring-bell, 103.
S. Hugh's day, ringing on, 109.
S. Neots, a bellfoundry at, 65, 79.
Salford bells, 20, 34, 53, 75, 75, 97, 100, 103, 106, 107, 181.
Sanctus, or saunce-bell, the, 101.
Sandy bells, 20, 40, 40, 91, 96, 107, 108, 112, 113, 114, 181.
Saunders, John, a bellfounder, 46.
Sermon-bell, 91.
Sharnbrook bells, 41, 112, 112, 113, 184.
Shefford bell, 184.
Shelton bells, 63, 67, 91, 109, 184.
Shillington bells, 40, 69, 76, 97, 108, 109, 109, 111, 111, 113, 114, 115, 185.
Shrive-bell, 106.
Signum, a large bell, 3.
Silsoe bells, 191.
Somerby, Lincolnshire, early dated bells at, 6.
Souldrop bells, 21, 191.
Southill bells, 91, 97, 108, 109, 192.
South Somercotes, Lincolnshire, early dated bells at, 6.
Stainbank, Robert, a bellfounder, 83.
Stafford, John of, a bellfounder, 57.
Stagsden bells, 77, 78, 193.
Stamford, a bellfoundry at, 76.
Stanbridge bells, 75, 76, 88, 90, 92, 96, 107, 109, 113, 114, 193.
Stanstead Abbots, Herts, a bell at, 69.
Staughton Parva bells, 34, 45, 194.
Steppingley bells, 96, 110, 195.
Stevington bells, 80, 81, 81, 92, 96, 195.
Stondon bell, 196.
Stotfold bells, 35, 55, 74, 91, 96, 196.
Streatley bells, 21, 196.

Studham bells, 35, 68, 75, 197.
Sunday mid-day peals, 92.
Sundon bells, 8, 21, 34, 55, 197.
Sutton bells, 197.

Tantony-bell, 102.
Taylor, Robert, a bellfounder, 66.
Taylor, R. and Sons, bellfounders, 66.
Taylor, John, a bellfounder, 66.
Taylor, W. and J., bellfounders, 66.
Taylor, John and Co., bellfounders, 67.
Tempsford bells, 41, 197.
Thurleigh bells, 8, 34, 35, 55, 60, 198.
Tilbrook bells, 77, 91, 98, 114, 199.
Tilsworth bells, 91, 92, 96, 108, 108, 108, 108, 108, 108, 108, 109, 110, 114, 200.
Tingrith bells, 20, 35, 35, 47, 91, 92, 93, 96, 107, 108, 114, 200.
Ting-tang, 102.
Toddington bells, 91, 96, 102, 105, 106, 108, 108, 108, 108, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 201.
Tompion, Thomas, a bellfounder, 78.
Tottenhoe (or Totternhoe) bells, 89, 97, 108, 110, 202.
Trinity Sunday peals, 108.
Truro, a bell at, 51.
Turvey bells, 77, 91, 98, 105, 106, 107, 108, 108, 108, 108, 109, 112, 114, 202.

Upton Magna, Salop, a bell at, 80.

Vestry bell, 113.

Wainfleet, Lincolnshire, a bell at, 55.
Warden Monastery, bells of, 17.
Warden, Old, bells, 34, 55, 89, 97, 114, 203.
Warner, John, and Sons, bellfounders, 84.
Watts, Francis, a bellfounder, 60.
Watts, "Hew," a bellfounder, 58.
Watts, Hugh, a bellfounder, 61.
Watts, William, a bellfounder, 58.
Wedding peals, 110.
Weights of bells judged from their diameters, 120.
Westoning bells, 71, 103, 103, 204.
Whipsnade bells, 72, 204.
Whitsuntide peals, 108.
Wilden bells, 35, 47, 62, 63, 91, 93, 99, 107, 109, 112, 112, 113, 114, 205.
Wilhampstead bells, 21, 91, 93, 97, 206.
Willington bells, 8, 35, 35, 50, 62, 67, 78, 91, 99, 112, 112, 113, 205.
Woburn Monastery bells, 17.
Woburn bells, 36, 89, 97, 101, 104, 105, 107, 107, 109, 106, 111, 114, 208.
Woodstock, Oxfordshire, a bellfoundry at, 74.
Wootton, a bellfoundry at, 37.
Wootton bells, 74, 76, 97, 107, 113, 114, 209.
Wrestlingworth bells, 66, 210.
Wyboston, Chantry of, bell, 11.
Wymington bells, 34, 34, 35, 49, 67, 80, 210.

Yielden bells, 62, 77, 79, 211.

CORRIGENDA.

Page 3, sixth line from bottom, for *Lanefranc*, read Lanfranc.

,, 6, third line from bottom, for *Sowerby*, read Somerby.

,, 50, the fourth woodcut should be numbered 15, and the fifth numbered 16.

,, 52, fourteenth line, for *Austin*, read Austen.

,, 62, eighth line, for *Ravensdale*, read Ravensden.

,, 81, eighth line from bottom, for *Cranford*, read Cranfield.

,, 87, second line from bottom, for *Apsley*, read Aspley.

,, 96, thirteenth line, for *Langton*, read Langford.

,, 107, sixteenth and twenty-fifth lines, for *Hartington*, read Harlington, and so on the third line of page 109.

ELLIOT STOCK'S

NEW AND RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Religio Medici.

By SIR THOMAS BROWNE, Physician. Being a facsimile reproduction of the first Edition published in 1642, with an Introduction by DR. GREENHILL, Hastings.

Five hundred copies only will be printed, and supplied to Subscribers at 4s. each, before the date of publication, after which the price will be raised to 6s., should any copies remain unsold.

Fifty large paper copies will also be printed in foolscap 4to size, on handmade paper, and will be numbered and apportioned in the order of application to Subscribers at 15s. each; after publication these will be 21s.

A full prospectus will be forwarded post free on application.

THE ANTIQUARY'S LIBRARY.

VOL. I. *Folk-Lore Relics of Early Village Life*, by G. L. GOMME.

VOL. II. *The Game and Playe of the Chesse*, by CAXTON. Edited by W. E. A. AXON.

VOL. III. *The History of Fairs*, Ancient and Modern, by CORNELIUS WALFORD.

The works constituting this LIBRARY are on subjects of interest to antiquaries and cultivated readers generally. The volumes are printed in antique style, in the highest style of the printing art, on handmade paper, and are bound in Roxburgh with gilt top. The first issue of THE ANTIQUARY'S LIBRARY is now in course of delivery. Intending Subscribers are invited to apply to the Publisher for prospectuses, which will be forwarded post free. Very few sets of the first series are left for sale.

In crown 8vo, contemporary binding, price 10s. 6d., post free.

THE LIFE AND STRANGE SURPRISING ADVENTURES OF

Robinson Crusoe,

Of York, Mariner. Being a *facsimile* reproduction of the First Edition, published in 1719, with the curious frontispiece, and a Preface by AUSTIN DOBSON.

ELLIOT STOCK, 62, PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON, E.C.

In crown 8vo, 6s.; old style calf, 10s. 6d.; antique morocco, £1 1s. Large paper copies, Roxburgh binding, £1 1s.; antique Turkey morocco, £2 10s.

Walton's Compleat Angler;

Or, The Contemplative Man's Recreation. A Reprint of the First Edition, published in 1653.

In crown 8vo, old style binding, price 5s., post free.

George Herbert's Temple.

Sacred Poems and Private Ejaculations. By GEORGE HERBERT, late Oratour of the Universitie of Cambridge.

This *facsimile* is made from one of about 20 copies, which were struck off for presentation to Herbert's friends, in 1633, before the issue to the public of the first published edition. Reproduced rom Mr. Huth's copy.

In small 4to, antique binding, price 10s. 6d., post free. Large paper copies, 21s.

Milton's Paradise Lost.

A *facsimile* Reproduction of the First Edition of 1667. With an Introduction by DAVID MASSON, M.A., LL.D., Author of the "Life of Milton," etc.

In crown 8vo, boards, or old style binding, price 3s. 6d., post free.

Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress.

Being a *facsimile* reproduction of the First Edition, published in 1678.

Printed on rough handmade paper, similar to that of the original, and bound in handsome contemporary vellum binding, price £2 2s.

The Boke of St. Alban's.

By DAME JULIANA BERNERS. Containing the Treatises on Hawking, Hunting, and Heraldry.

Printed at St. Alban's, by the Schoolmaster-Printer, in 1486. With an Introduction by WILLIAM BLADES, Author of "The Life and Typography of Caxton." This *facsimile* is faithfully reproduced by photography. The interest and value of this reproduction are greatly enhanced by Mr. BLADES' Preface, which treats at length, in separate chapters, of the Authorship, Typography, Bibliography, Subject-matter, and Philology of the Work.

ELLIOT STOCK, 62, PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON, E.C.

COMPANION VOLUME TO "THE BOKE OF SAINT ALBAN'S."
THE FIRST ENGLISH BOOK ON FISHING.

Now ready, in demy 4to, printed on handmade paper, and bound in antique vellum, price 18s.

The Treatyse of Fysshynge wyth an Angle.

By DAME JULIANA BERNERS. A *facsimile* reproduction of the First Edition, printed by Wynkyn de Worde, at Westminster, in 1496. With an Introduction by the Rev. M. G. WATKINS.

The extreme rarity of this work, and the great interest taken in it by connoisseurs, has suggested to the Publisher the advisability of producing a *facsimile* reprint for the use of those Collectors and Anglers who can never hope to possess the almost priceless original. The present *facsimile* is reproduced from a copy of the original edition in the British Museum, by means of photography, and consequently renders every peculiarity of the original in faithful detail: the rude Illustrations which adorned the first edition of this "lytyll plaunflet" are here given in all their quaint roughness. The work is printed on handmade paper of the same texture and colour as that on which the first edition appeared, and the binding is of contemporary pattern and material, so that the reader of to-day in handling this volume can realize the form and appearance of the original, which must have delighted the eyes of those who studied "treatyses perteynynge to dyuers playsaunt matters belongynge vnto noblesse."

In crown 8vo, old style binding, price 5s., post free.

Some Passages of the Life and Death of the Right Hon. John, Earl of Rochester.

Who died on the 26th July, 1680.

Written by his own direction on his deathbed. By GILBERT BURNET, D.D. Reprinted in *facsimile* from the Edition of 1680. With an Introductory Preface by Lord RONALD GOWER, and Portrait.

In small 4to, vellum, price 17s. 6d., post free.

A Ballade of the Scottysshe Kynge.

Written by JOHN SKELTON, Poet Laureate to King Henry VIII. Reproduced in *facsimile*, with an Historical and Bibliographical Introduction by JOHN ASHTON.

THE BALLADE OF THE SCOTTYSSHE KYNGE is the earliest known printed English ballad; it was discovered under curious and interesting circumstances, which are narrated in detail in the Introduction, and is here very carefully facsimiled. A limited number of copies were issued in a tasteful form for those collectors of ballads and connoisseurs of early printing who desire to possess the work in the nearest shape to its original form. It is accompanied by an Historical and Bibliographical Introduction, giving an account of the various printed forms of the incidents it records, with Illustrative Quotations from the more important of them; also Notes from Contemporary History, elucidating the events of the Ballad, and other information interesting to the Antiquary and the Bibliographer.

ELLIOT STOCK, 62, PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON, E.C.

In foolscap 4to., tastefully printed in antique style, on handmade paper, with rough edges, and bound in vellum of very beautiful pattern, price 16s.

A Noble Boke of Cookry

ffor a Prynce houffolde or eny other eftately houffolde.

Reprinted Verbatim from a rare MS. in the Holkham Collection. With an Introduction by Mrs. NAPIER.

This very curious and interesting work is a reproduction of a fourteenth century cookery book, containing numerous recipes for dishes which were in common use at that period, many of which are now obsolete: others are evidently the early counterparts of made dishes of the present day. The work also furnishes a number of *menus* of great contemporary feasts, which throw much fresh light on the domestic habits of our ancestors.

Published Monthly, Price One Shilling, in crown 4to, tastefully printed on handmade paper, with rough edges, and occasionally Illustrated.

The Antiquary.

A Magazine devoted to the Study of the Past.

The Half-Annual Volumes of THE ANTIQUARY furnish a vast repertory of useful, curious and interesting information. They contain able articles on Antiquarian, Archæological, Historical, Bibliographical, and similar subjects of permanent and current interest. They also present a valuable record of antiquarian intelligence for the period they cover, as well as many curious and varied jottings on antiquarian subjects, which are gleaned from out of the way and little known sources.

Seven volumes are now ready, bound in Roxburgh, price 7s. 6d. each, post free.

Published Monthly, in crown 4to, price 1s., post free.

The Bibliographer: a Journal of Book-Lore.

Containing articles on the various branches of Bibliography, Records of Remarkable Book Sales, Bibliographical News, and much valuable information for those interested in Book Lore.

Three volumes are now ready, bound in Roxburgh, price 7s. 6d. each, post free.

ELLIOT STOCK, 62, PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON, E.C.

fordshire. Sanctus or Priests' Bells. Large Bells, how Distributed. nd how Distributed. Classification of the Dedications and Legends of

SECTION III.

ders.—This Section will contain Accounts of the different Foundries moirs of such of the Founders as are known to us. Will include of William Emerton, of Wootton, of the Newcombes at Bedford, and

SECTION IV.

shire Bells. Will include notices of Early London Founders. Stamps, ccounts of Foundries at Hertford, Kettering, Leicester, Loughborough, Woodstock, Stamford, Chacombe, S. Neots, Downham Market, and London and the Country, the whole illustrated by Drawings of their Stamps.

Some Opinions on Mr.

MINUTE of the
Bedfordshire
Architectural and
Archæological
Society.

"The Council were re
Mr. Ransom that having
cured a description of [ma
of the county, he had now
hands of Mr. Thomas N
known author of 'The Chu
and Northamptonshire,' w
materials in a similar
Bedfordshire."

Dedicated, by permission, to the
Lord Bishop of El

Dedicated, by permission, to the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Ely.

MINUTE *of the Bedfordshire Architectural and Archæological Society.*

"The Council were very pleased to hear from Mr. Ransom that having several years since procured a description of [many of] the Church Bells of the county, he had now placed the MSS. in the hands of Mr. Thomas North, F.S.A., the well-known author of 'The Church Bells of Leicestershire and Northamptonshire,' who proposes to employ these materials in a similar work on the Bells of Bedfordshire."

Some Opinions on Mr. North's former Bell Books.

"Thanks to the devotion of inquirers like Mr. North, we shall, in course of time, possess accounts of all the bells in England, but no compiler is likely to surpass Mr. North in care and diligence. This is saying a good deal, seeing what excellent volumes have been devoted to the subject."—*Athenæum.*

"One after another the bell lists of the different counties are being collected and published, and none of them better than those which have been undertaken by Mr. North."—*Notes and Queries.*

"Must be studied by the historian of English manners."—*Standard.*

"An unexpectedly pleasant book."—*Saturday Review.*

"We recommend [our readers] to see for themselves how excellent a work of the kind it is."—*Guardian.*

"The chapter on 'Peculiar Uses' will be read with peculiar interest, being very thoroughly done indeed, taking in not only the ordinary uses of bells, but some very curious, and, in some cases, strictly local ones, such as are constantly dying out."—*Archæological Journal.*

"We are happy to know that Mr. North, who is *facile princeps* as a chronicler of church bells, is engaged on (the county of) Bedford."—*Church Bells.*

"Admirable and exhaustive."—*Antiquarian Magazine and Bibliographer.*

"We must not omit to call attention to the engravings—some of these are of great beauty."—*Academy.*

"I think your book a very complete and thorough account of our Northants bells."—*The Very Rev. Lord Alwyne Compton.*

"The beau-ideal of what such a book should be."—*The Rev. H. T. Ellacombe, F.S.A.*

THE CHURCH BELLS OF BEDFORDSHIRE

THEIR FOUNDERS, INSCRIPTIONS, TRADITIONS, AND PECULIAR USES,

WITH A BRIEF

HISTORY OF CHURCH BELLS IN THAT COUNTY,

CHIEFLY FROM ORIGINAL AND CONTEMPORANEOUS RECORDS,

BY

THOMAS NORTH, F.S.A.,

Hon. Mem. and Hon. Sec. of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society,

Hon. Mem. of the Derbyshire Archæological Society, &c., &c.

THE publisher has much pleasure in announcing for early issue the present year the above new volume by Mr. North. The work, which is now at press, is arranged on the same plan as his former volumes on the Church Bells of Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Rutland, and Lincolnshire, and will be uniform with them in size and style. The following abstract of contents will indicate the thorough manner in which the subject has been treated.

The book will be published in fcap. 4to., handsomely printed on thick paper, illustrated by about 65 woodcuts, bound in cloth, and will be charged TWELVE SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE to Subscribers.

Only 250 copies of the ordinary edition will be printed, of which a few copies will be prepared in paper boards, with printed label and rough edges for those who prefer that style of binding. In addition to which TWENTY-FIVE COPIES, ONLY, will be printed on LARGE PAPER, with rough edges, bound in paper boards, or cloth, according to the selection of the Subscribers. The price of these LARGE PAPER copies will be £1 7s. 6d. each.

As these numbers will be strictly adhered to, intending Subscribers are requested to at once send in their applications to the Publisher on the annexed form, taking care to indicate the binding they select, as well as whether they wish large or small paper copies.

It may be added that some of the former volumes of Mr. North's series are now out of print, and cannot be obtained excepting at considerably advanced prices.

BRIEF ABSTRACT OF CONTENTS.

SECTION I.

INTRODUCTION of Bells into Churches. Early Modes of Calling to Prayer. Bells in Saxon England. S. Dunstan and Lanfranc on Bell-ringing. Early Bell-founders and Bell-founding. Benediction of Bells. Early Bells, what they tell: Bedfordshire Examples. Bell-ringing in Mediæval Times. Changes in connection with the Inscriptions and Ornamentation of Bells after the Reformation. Commission of 2 Ed. VI. as to Church Furniture. Certificate relating to Colleges, Chantries, &c., in Bedfordshire in 1549. Commission of 6 Ed. VI., copy of: Its Action in Bedfordshire, with Examples. Commission of 7 Ed. VI. Bell-metal, what became of it. Original Documents relating to Bedfordshire Bell-metal, and the Bells and Lead of Religious Houses in the County. Original records quoted relating to Bell-metal removed from Bedfordshire. Proclamation of Elizabeth against the throwing down of Bells. Comparison between the Number of Bells in Bedfordshire *temp.* Ed. VI. and the Present Time. Causes of Destruction of Ancient Bells: Bedfordshire Examples. Ringing, Love of English for. Early Cultivation of in Bedfordshire. Oliver Palmer and "his sons:" "Epigramme to Bedford Ringers" (1653). "An Exastick" presented to Mr. Palmer, and other quaint verses. John Bunyan, and other Lovers of Bells in Bedfordshire in the 17th and 18th centuries. Poem by the Rev. Samuel Rogers, of Chellington. Decline of Ringing; consequent neglect of Bells. Recent revival of Change-ringing, and formation of Bedfordshire Associatioo of Change-ringers.

SECTION II.

Number of Bells in Bedfordshire. Sanctus or Priests' Bells. Large Bells, how Distributed. Percentage of Ancient Bells, and how Distributed. Classification of the Dedications and Legends of these Ancient Bells.

SECTION III.

The Bedfordshire Bell-founders.—This Section will contain Accounts of the different Foundries in the County, with short Memoirs of such of the Founders as are known to us. Will include Particulars of the Russells, and of William Emerton, of Wootton, of the Newcombes at Bedford, and Christopher Graye at Ampthill.

SECTION IV.

Other Founders of Bedfordshire Bells. Will include notices of Early London Founders. Stamps, &c., of unknown Foonders. Accounts of Foundries at Hertford, Kettering, Leicester, Loughborough, Drayton Parslow, Buckingham, Woodstock, Stamford, Chacombe, S. Neots, Downham Market, and of other modern Foundries in London and the Country, the whole illustrated by Drawings of their Initial Crosses, Stops, and other Stamps.

The book will be published in fcap. 4to., handsomely printed on thick paper, illustrated by about 65 woodcuts, bound in cloth, and will be charged TWELVE SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE to Subscribers.

Only 250 copies of the ordinary edition will be printed, of which a few copies will be prepared in paper boards, with printed label and rough edges for those who prefer that style of binding. In addition to which TWENTY-FIVE COPIES, ONLY, will be printed on LARGE PAPER, with rough edges, bound in paper boards, or cloth, according to the selection of the Subscribers. The price of these LARGE PAPER copies will be £1 7s. 6d. each.

As these numbers will be strictly adhered to, intending Subscribers are requested to at once send in their applications to the Publisher on the annexed form, taking care to indicate the binding they select, as well as whether they wish large or small paper copies.

It may be added that some of the former volumes of Mr. North's series are now out of print, and cannot be obtained excepting at considerably advanced prices.

BRIEF ABSTRACT OF CONTENTS.

SECTION I.

INTRODUCTION of Bells into Churches. Early Modes of Calling to Prayer. Bells in Saxon England. S. Dunstan and Lanfranc on Bell-ringing. Early Bell-founders and Bell-founding. Benediction of Bells. Early Bells, what they tell: Bedfordshire Examples. Bell-ringing in Mediæval Times. Changes in connection with the Inscriptions and Ornamentation of Bells after the Reformation. Commission of 2 Ed. VI. as to Church Furniture. Certificate relating to Colleges, Chantries, &c., in Bedfordshire in 1549. Commission of 6 Ed. VI., copy of: Its Action in Bedfordshire, with Examples. Commission of 7 Ed. VI. Bell-metal, what became of it. Original Documents relating to Bedfordshire Bell-metal, and the Bells and Lead of Religious Houses in the County. Original records quoted relating to Bell-metal removed from Bedfordshire. Proclamation of Elizabeth against the throwing down of Bells. Comparison between the Number of Bells in Bedfordshire *temp.* Ed. VI. and the Present Time. Causes of Destruction of Ancient Bells: Bedfordshire Examples. Ringing, Love of English for. Early Cultivation of in Bedfordshire. Oliver Palmer and "his sons:" "Epigrame to Bedford Ringers" (1655). "An Exastick" presented to Mr. Palmer, and other quaint verses. John Bunyan, and other Lovers of Bells in Bedfordshire in the 17th and 18th centuries. Poem by the Rev. Samuel Rogers, of Chellington. Decline of Ringing; consequent neglect of Bells. Recent revival of Change-ringing, and formation of Bedfordshire Association of Change-ringers.

Peculiar Us
Parish Registers
ing for Divine S
various Uses in
different Parishe
rung, popular E
ancient Use, wi
different Modes
Burial Peals anc
Commemorative
Bell, or Ting-tan
how used. Agn
Lych-bell. The
Daily Bells. Th
Peals. Easter I
Lenten Ringing.
Dedication Peal
Restoration Peal
or Common-bell
Belfry Reform.

Latin Inscri
being known) b

The Inscrip

-ɔp sa "pg 's
ɯɹɐɥʇɥɐW
C.

NEW h

The Abbe

IT

THIS WORK fu
principal hist
Cross from t
succinct desc
disputed question of
fabric itself; and fres
given.

The Work is il
specially made for thi
taken from interestin
the remaining Illustr
which it is believed
accompanied by a de
the surroundings and

The Abbe
folio size, tastefully p
restricted to One Hu
at 12s. 6d. each; *thes*

*** *As so fe*
intending Subscribe
order to avoid disc

SECTION V.

Peculiar Uses of Bedfordshire Bells explained and illustrated by Examples and by Extracts from Parish Registers and Churchwardens' Accounts. Rubrics and Canons on the Uses of Bells. Ringing for Divine Service in Mediæval Times. Canonical Hours. Bells rung by the Deacons. Present various Uses in Bedfordshire. Early Sunday Peals, Survivals of Canonical Hours, how rung in the different Parishes. The Sermon-bell, ancient and present Customs. Sunday mid-day Peals, how rung, popular Explanations of; Pudding Bell; Potato Bell; Knolling of the Aves. Passing-bell, ancient Use, with curious Examples. Meaning of Tolls at end, general Custom, nearly thirty different Modes in Bedfordshire explained. The Death-knell explained, traces in Bedfordshire. Burial Peals ancient and modern, Bedfordshire Examples. Peals after Funeral. Obit or Year-mind. Commemorative Peals. Sanctus-bell, what, how used; ancient Examples in Bedfordshire. Priests' Bell, or Ting-tang, how used. Tantony-bell. Anthem-bell. Sacring-bell, Bedfordshire Examples: how used. Agnus-bell. Hand-bells, how used, Bedfordshire Examples. Housselling-bell. Corse or Lych-bell. The Curfew. Early Morning-bell; early *Angelus;* Gabriel Bells; how now rung. Other Daily Bells. The Shrive or Pancake Bell, ancient and present Use. Advent Ringing. Christmas Peals. Easter Day. The Epiphany. Ascension Day. Whit Sunday. Lady-day. Trinity Sunday. Lenten Ringing. Good Friday Use. New Year's Eve and Day. S. Hugh's Day. Queen's Day. Dedication Peals. Banns' Peals. Wedding Peals. Bride's Peal. Fair Peals. The Oven-bell. Restoration Peals. Gleaning-bell. Execution-bell. Fire-bell. Gunpowder Plot. Market-bell. Mote or Common-bell. Vestry-bell. Induction-bell. Mayors' Peals. Public Rejoicings. Loyal Peals. Belfry Reform. Ringing-chamber: proper care of Bells.

SECTION VI.

Latin Inscriptions on the Church Bells of Bedfordshire, with Translations. A Table (the diameter being known) by which to find the approximate Weight of any Bell.

SECTION VII.

The Inscriptions, with the Founders' Initial Crosses and other Stamps, on the Church Bells of Bedfordshire, 565 in number, from Rubbings and Casts taken specially for this work; the Measurement of each Bell, by which its Weight can be ascertained; to which will be added Notes on Local Traditions, numerous Notices of the Donors, &c., of Bells, and copious Extracts from Parochial and Public Records.

Full Indices, Lists of Subscribers, Helpers, &c., will be given.

FORM OF ORDER.

MR. ELLIOT STOCK,

62, PATERNOSTER ROW,

LONDON, E.C.

Please enter my name as a Subscriber to the "CHURCH BELLS OF BEDFORDSHIRE," as described in the foregoing Prospectus, price ____ and forward____ cop___ to me on ____ *paper bound in _____

Name _____

Address _____

Date _____

* Here indicate whether large or small paper copies are desired.

[P.T.O.

NEW WORK ON WALTHAM ABBEY.

The Abbey of Waltham Holy Cross:

Its History and Architecture.

BY EDWARD H. BUCKLER.

THIS WORK furnishes in a concise but comprehensive form an account of the principal historic events connected with the *Abbey Church of Waltham Holy Cross* from the earliest times, derived from original sources, as well as a succinct description of its most interesting architectural features, in which the disputed question of the age of the building is discussed from the evidences of the fabric itself; and fresh light, it is believed, is thrown on the subject in the particulars given.

The Work is illustrated by Twenty Drawings on Six Plates, which have been specially made for this work by the Author. Of these, the views have been purposely taken from interesting points of observation which have not hitherto been selected; the remaining Illustrations represent objects of interest in connection with the Abbey which it is believed have never been illustrated before. These Illustrations are accompanied by a descriptive text, which gives much curious information concerning the surroundings and associations of the Abbey.

The Abbey of Waltham Holy Cross is published in large folio size, tastefully printed in antique style, and handsomely bound. The Edition is restricted to One Hundred and Fifty Copies, and will be supplied only to Subscribers at 12s. 6d. each; *these have all been appropriated but about 25 Copies.*

*** *As so few remain unappropriated, the Publisher requests that intending Subscribers will send their names to him as early as possible, in order to avoid disappointment.*

FORM OF ORDER.

MR. ELLIOT STOCK,
62, PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON, E.C.

Please send me a Copy of '**The Abbey of Waltham Holy Cross,**' by Mr. BUCKLER, price 12s. 6d., as described in the foregoing Prospectus.

*Name*_____

*Address*_____

*Date*_____

VORK ON WALTHAM ABBEY.

The bool
thick paper, illu
charged TWELVI

Only 25
which a few co
and rough edge
to which TWEN
with rough edg
selection of the
be £1 7s. 6d. e

As these
are requested tc
annexed form,
whether they wi

It may
series are now
siderably advanc

...y of Waltham Holy Cross:

HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE.

BY EDWARD H. BUCKLER.

...rnishes in a concise but comprehensive form an account of the
...oric events connected with the *Abbey Church of Waltham Holy*
...he earliest times, derived from original sources, as well as a
...ription of its most interesting architectural features, in which the
the age of the building is discussed from the evidences of the
...h light, it is believed, is thrown on the subject in the particulars

...lustrated by Twenty Drawings on Six Plates, which have been
...s work by the Author. Of these, the views have been purposely
...g points of observation which have not hitherto been selected;
...itions represent objects of interest in connection with the Abbey
have never been illustrated before. These Illustrations are
...scriptive text, which gives much curious information concerning
associations of the Abbey.

...y of Waltham Holy Cross is published in large
...inted in antique style, and handsomely bound. The Edition is
...dred and Fifty Copies, and will be supplied only to Subscribers
... have all been appropriated but about 25 Copies.

...w remain unappropriated, the Publisher requests that
...rs will send their names to him as early as possible, in
...ppointment.

INTRODUCTION of Be
S. Dunstan and Lanf
Bells. Early Bells,
Changes in connection
mission of 2 Ed. VI. a
fordshire in 1549. Co
Commission of 7 Ed.
shire Bell-metal, and
quoted relating to Be
throwing down of Bel
and the Present Time.
Love of English for.
grame to Bedford Ring
John Bunyan, and otl
the Rev. Samuel Roge
revival of Change-ring

FORM OF ORDER.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LIBRARY
Los Angeles
This book is DUE on the last date stamped below.

Form L9–100m-9,'52(A3105)444

CC North -
212 The church bells
B4N81 of Bedfordshire.

CC
212
B4N81